

The adoption of the dollar was recommended by the circumstances that it was a very convenient value, was a familiar well known coin in all parts of the Union, with which the money of account in use was everywhere compared, and would therefore be well understood and readily adopted. The easy mode of reckoning by decimals was convenient, and capable of being soon understood by all classes. The origin of the mark \$, for dollars, is still a subject of dispute. Some have supposed it to be an imitation of the pillars, circled by a wreath, others a combination of U S; and others, with more plausibility, the figure 8 crossed like the £, used for pounds. There seems no reason to doubt, however, that it was adopted in imitation of the same mark used in Portugal, and in some of the West India Islands. Its origin there we have no means of determining. It was not used in the United States until after the adoption of the Federal coinage. The Rhode Island minutes of the date 1758 are printed with this mark, but an examination of the original manuscript proved that it was not then employed, but the word dollars, or the contraction Drs. The earliest manuscript containing it, that has been discovered, was made in 1795, and the earliest printed book in 1801. After this it became universal; but how it was first introduced, and whether any special means were used to recommend it, seems unknown.

Accounts were generally kept in this State in pounds, shillings, and pence, of the 7s. 6d. standard, until after 1799, in which year a law was passed requiring all accounts to be kept in dollars or units, dimes or tenths, cents or hundredths, and mills or thousandths. For several years, however, aged persons inquiring the price of an article in West Jersey or Philadelphia, required to be told the value in shillings and pence, they not being able to keep in mind the newly-created cents or their relative value. Even now, in New York, and in East Jersey, where the eighth of a dollar, so long the common coin in use, corresponded with the shilling of account, it is common to state the price of articles, not above two or three dollars, in shillings, as, for instance, ten shillings rather than a dollar and a quarter. So lately as 1820 some traders and tavern keepers in East Jersey kept their accounts in York currency.

Towards the close of the Revolutionary War a considerable number of French crowns, worth \$1.10, and smaller French silver coins, were introduced by the French army, and continued to circu-

late for several years; and since, the French five-franc piece has circulated to some extent. The principal coins, however, in common use, continued to be the Spanish and Mexican dollars, and halves and quarters, especially the latter; Spanish and Mexican pistareens, which generally passed for twenty cents, although worth only about seventeen cents; the Spanish or Mexican real or bit, called an eleven penny bit or shilling; and its half called a five penny bit or sixpence. Prices of small articles were adjusted to these $12\frac{1}{2}$ and $6\frac{1}{4}$ cent coins in use, and so continued until within a few years. About ten years ago these current coins had become so much worn as to be worth not much more than ten cents and five cents, and for a short time passed at those rates; but the American dimes and half dimes having been coined to a considerable amount, they came into common use, and prices were slowly adjusted accordingly.

During the present century the principal circulating medium has been bank notes and silver. The gold coin from the American mint having been made of a little more relative value than the silver, was used for exportation, so that very little was in circulation until after 1837, in which year the gold coins were reduced in comparative value, and a few years ago were quite plentiful. The banks were obliged to suspend the redemption of their bills during the war commenced in 1812, and for near ten years there was very little coin in use, small change being supplied at first by the bills of individuals, and then by those issued by banks and incorporated cities.

In 1815 a temporary law of this State was passed, which provided that unless the plaintiff in an execution would consent to receive current bills of a bank there should be a stay of the proceedings. It remained in force about eighteen months; would probably have been held contrary to the Constitution of the United States, but the question was not raised. The banks have suspended several times since for short periods of time. Shortly after the breaking out of the Rebellion the government of the United States issued large and small bills, and enacted laws declaring them to be a legal tender in payment of all debts.

The legal interest of money in this State was eight per cent., until 1738, when it was reduced to seven per cent. per annum. In 1774 an act was passed lowering the rate to six per cent., but it

HISTORY
OF THE
Early Settlement and Progress
OF
Cumberland County,
NEW JERSEY;
AND OF THE
CURRENCY
OF THIS AND THE ADJOINING COLONIES.

BY
LUCIUS Q. C. ELMER.

BRIDGETON, N. J.:
GEORGE F. NIXON, PUBLISHER.
1869.

Sept

1857.]

He us'd to wear a long blue coat
All button'd down before?"

I have often heard it attributed to a gentleman, now living, who is on the sunny side of 60; and I have also heard several old persons say that they had heard it sung before that gentleman was born.

Though not a great many years the junior of the person to whom the authorship is ascribed, from my earliest recollection, I remember having heard it sung by those who were then probably too old to learn new songs. W. H. M.

[We have no doubt that Albert G. Greene, of Providence, R. I., — to whom the authorship of Old Grimes is attributed, — is really the author of that song. The writer of the above query and his friends have perhaps confounded some other song with it. If so, it would be interesting to know what that song was. Will some of our correspondents explain the matter?]

REPLIES.

EARLY POETRY ON THE EMIGRATION TO AMERICA, (No. 8, p. 243). — Cartwright, in his play of the "Ordinary," written about 1635, has some curious lines on emigration, of an earlier date than Marvell's *Bermudas*, and of a very different spirit. Cartwright was a devoted royalist, and at his death in 1643, the King himself went into mourning. In the scene referred to, three sharpers are discussing their plans for the future:

Slicer. There is no longer tarrying here: let's swear Fidelity to one another, and So resolve for New England.

Hearsay. 'Tis but getting A little pigeon-hole reformed ruff, —

Slicer. Forcing our beards into th' orthodox bent, —

Shape. Nosing a little treason 'gainst the King, Bark somewhat at the bishops, and we shall Be easily received.

Hearsay. No fitter place. They are good, silly people; souls that will Be cheated without trouble. One eye is Put out with zeal, the other with ignorance, And yet, they think they're eagles.

* * *
Slicer. What language speak they?

Hearsay. English, and now and then a root or so Of Hebrew, which we'll learn of some Dutch [skipper That goes along with us this voyage." (Act V. Sc. 5.)

VERTAUR.

EARLY EDITIONS OF THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES, (No. 3, p. 88; No. 5, p. 158; [No. 7, p. 219]. — There are copies of the following editions in the library of a gentleman of this city:

1786, Hall & Sellers, Philadelphia, 12°, the *proposed book*; — 1790, Hall & Sellers, Phila., 12°; — 1791, Hall & Sellers, Phila., 12°; — 1793, Hugh Gainé, New York, 8°; — 1795, W. Young and J. Ormrod, Phila., 12°; — 1797, T. Allen, New York, 12°; — 1800, Hall & Sellers, Phila., 12°.

In the Philadelphia Loganian Library, there is a copy of

1793, Hugh Gainé, New York, 12°.

In the Library of Christ, Philadelphia, there are:

1794, Hugh Gainé, New York; — 1795, Hugh Gainé, New York, folio. S. M. G.

PHILADELPHIA.

THE DOLLAR MARK, (No. 4, p. 122; No. 6, p. 186; No. 8, p. 245.) A Spaniard makes the character \$, because the dollar in Spanish is called *peso* and dollars *pesos*. The dollar mark signifies *p.* or *peso*, and *pp.* for *pesos*, or dollars, in the plural. This is the most reasonable solution I have ever heard of the question. B. M.

BALTIMORE, Aug. 21.

MRS. CHARLOTTE LENNOX, (No. 7, p. 215). In the Universal Biographical Dictionary it is stated that "Mrs. L. was a daughter of Col. Ramsay, lieutenant-governor of New York, and was born in 1720." Watkins in his Biog. Dict. says "Mrs. L. was born at New York." — Maunder in the Biographical Treasury that "Mrs. L. was born in 1720. Her father, Col. Ramsay, was lieutenant-governor of New York, by whom she was sent to England, where she married early and was left a widow with one child."

In the Biographical Notes to Madame D'Arblay's Diary, Vol. 1, p. 377, it is said that "Mrs. Charlotte Lennox was a native of New York, of which her father, Col. James Ramsay, was governor." — Madame D'Arblay, Vol. 1, p. 74, remarks, "Dr. Johnson gave us an account of Mrs. Lennox. — Her 'Female Quixote' is very justly admired here, but Mrs. Thrale says, that though her books are generally approved, nobody likes her."

The Gentleman's Magazine for 1804, Part 1, p. 89, contains a long obituary notice of Mrs. Lennox. After enumerating her many works and the time of their publication, &c., it is added: "Her father was a field officer, lieutenant-governor of New York, who sent her over at 15 to a wealthy aunt who desired to have her, but who unfortunately on the arrival of her niece was out of her senses, and never recovered them; immediately after which the father died, and the daughter from that time supported herself by her literary talents, which she always employed usefully. Her latter days have been clouded by penury and sickness."

It is further stated that she was assisted by the

were ever used in this country. I have met with two instances. One is impressed on a seal of red wax which is affixed to the original deed from certain Indians granting the land of Marblehead. The signature opposite the seal is Sannah Wenepawweckin.



There are several other Indian signatures to the deed, and to each is appended a seal, bearing some impression, generally a crest of arms.

The other is that with which Russell, of Charlestown, sealed his will in 1674. His son, Daniel Russell, made his will in 1678, and sealed it with the family arms.



These devices appear to have been in general use in England among the merchants, who affixed them to their bales of goods, from about the year 1300 to the beginning of the 17th century, and were occasionally used half a century later. They are often found on the walls of churches, where some liberal merchant in olden time gave money towards their building or restoration.

H. G. S.

Boston.

WINNIPESOGEE, OR MORE PROPERLY, WINNIPESAUKEE LAKE (No. 5, p. 153).—In your last number a correspondent asks, Who first gave us the translation of this word "*The Smile of the Great Spirit?*" He asks also for the true signification of the original name. In the Algonquin dialect (which was spoken by all the New England tribes) there is no word which could be rendered *smile*. And as in *Winnepesaukee* there is no sound like *Manitou*—the Indian word for the Great Spirit—it will be seen that the person who gave the poetical translation above named, was quite mistaken in his facts.

My own rendering of it is, that *Win** means turbid or discolored; *neps* is water: thus *Win-neps* is roily or turbid water, such as we often see along the shores of ponds which have a clayey bottom, particularly when they are agitated by the wind or currents. *Auk* means a locality or place; the

* This word is found quite often in our aboriginal names. It is the initial sound in the Indian name (*Winnemmet*) of the newly formed neighboring city of Chelsea. I was for some time much puzzled to find out its meaning, and only obtained it by corresponding with the Rev. Mr. Jones, an Indian missionary in Canada, who was certain of its signification, and gave me, as an example, the lakes *Winnabago* and *Winnipeg*,—the latter of which is very shallow and always turbid, being famous for a luxuriant growth of wild rice, which he said he had spent many a day during his boyhood in gathering into canoes.

final sound like *ee* is often applied to a large body of water, and may represent quantity, — but as Judge Potter, who is good authority, translates *high*, I will adopt his definition. I would therefore render *Winnepesaukee* *The High Place of Turbid Water*. I do not think that the name originally referred to the whole lake; but was perhaps applied to some spot upon which the Indians often encamped, or to one of the numerous bays where the water is quite shoal and not so clear as this beautiful inland sea is usually seen. In the course of time the name came to be applied to the whole lake.

I am pleased to learn that this word is now written in accordance with its true pronunciation — *Winnepesaukee*.
F. K.
Boston, May 21.

ORIGIN OF THE INDIANS (No. 4, p. 122).—He who launches on this sea of speculation, will sail long before reaching a haven. It is now, however, the commonly received opinion, that they are of Hebrew origin. The best authorities for arriving at such a conclusion are, "Boudinot's Star in the West," 1816, and Mrs. Simon's "Ten Tribes of Israel Historically Identified with the Aborigines of the Western Hemisphere," London, 1836; to which "H. R. S." is referred. An intelligent and highly educated Iroquois informed the writer, that some of the traditions of the Indians state that the "Great Spirit descended from heaven and fashioned man out of the clay of the earth, and breathed into him life. That He created all things good on earth, gave him the bow and arrow, and taught him its use, and the manner of taking game. The Evil Spirit, seeing how happy man would be, if left unmolested, surrounded by all these good things, became envious, and immediately created monsters, venomous reptiles, and all kinds of poisonous plants, despoiling the beauties and designs of the Great Spirit's creations, and forever marring the happiness of man." Compare this with the creation and fall of our first parents. Does it not in some degree sustain the affirmative of our argument?

COCKED HAT.

PHILADELPHIA, May 4, 1857.

THE DOLLAR MARK. (No. 4, p. 122).—The probable origin of this mark is the ribbon, or scroll, upon the pillars of the Spanish Dollars, although by some thought to be derived from the figure 8; dollars being formerly known as "pieces of eight." The time of its introduction into use is unknown.

W. A. W.

NEWARK, N. J., May.

Another Reply.—The earliest use of the dollar-mark that has come to my knowledge, was in 1784, when Jefferson, in the memorial which proposed

the dollar as the American money-unit, employed the \$ sign. See Jefferson's Works, Vol. I., page 164.

The origin of the mark is very doubtful, and probably never will be known with certainty. Among the origins that have been ascribed to it are the following:—

1. On each side of the royal arms on a Spanish dollar is a column entwined by a scroll which bears a Latin motto. In the sign \$, the upright strokes designate the two columns and the S the entwining scroll, so that the sign is a simple and rational one, borrowed from the very coin itself.

2. The Spanish word for dollars is *pesos*, which in old Spanish accounts was written in full, and placed before the numerals. It was then abbreviated into P. S., and afterwards the small p. was used, the s. being placed on the lower part of the p. Finally, the curved part of the p. was omitted, which gave the sign \$, with but a single long stroke, the second stroke being afterwards added. The sign \$ would thus be equivalent to the word *pesos*.

3. The Spaniards used this mark to signify a coin, which contained eight smaller coins or *real*, equivalent to our "York shillings," and in this form, 12, 8, to express twelve pieces of eight or twelve dollars. And when it was found careless writers and readers often confounded the 8 with the amount intended to be expressed, and read it 128, another stroke was added across it, \$, to show that it was used as a sign and not as a figure, and for the same purpose it was placed before the amount instead of after it.

4. It is a contracted form of H S., the well-known mark of the Roman money-unit, which was prefixed to the numerals representing any sum, just as we use our form of the unit mark. The Roman H S. was their contracted form of *II et semis*, meaning two and a half *nummi*, and equivalent to the word *sestertius*. The *sestertius* was their unit of value, as the dollar is ours.

Whether either of these guesses is correct, and if either, which, are still debatable questions.

P. H. W.

ST. JOHNSBURY, VT., May 11.

Another Reply.—I have seen several explanations of this mark, but remember only these two. The first explanation is that it represents the figure 8, with lines drawn through it to make it a money character, as lines drawn through the letter L, make that a money character for pounds. The dollar being equal to 8 reals, was formerly called a "piece of eight," which accounts for the use of that figure to represent the dollar.

The other explanation is that the two parallel lines represent the letter U, which is combined with an S, these being the initials of United States. But, unfortunately for this latter theory, the

earliest instances that I have found of the character (1796), have but one line through the S; and one line certainly cannot be tortured into a U. If this was the origin, the memory of it was not very long lived.

SEMAJ.

AMERICAN BARONETS. (No. 5, p. 150).—

Your correspondent, D. B. A. G. seems in doubt whether the second Sir William Pepperell, Bart., may not have inherited his baronetcy through his mother. I would ask if there is any instance on record of a baronetcy being inherited through a female? I always supposed that this honor was transmitted to male posterity only.

YANKEE.

AMESFORD (No. 5, p. 151).—This name was probably given by the early Dutch settlers, after Amersfoort, on the river Eem, in the province of Utrecht, a town called in ancient records Hemesfurt and Emesfurt, i. e., *Eem's ford*.

B. H. D.

BOSTON, May 14.

Another Reply.—Flatland was founded in 1636, and called, by its first Dutch settlers, New Amersfoort, after a town of that name in Holland.—*O'Callaghan's New Netherland*, I., 173; *Collections of N. Y. Historical Society*, II., ii., 93.

The name is also written Amersvoort, Amersfort, Amersfoort.—*Collections*, II., ii., 93, 274; II., iii., 143.

NEW YORK, May.

Another Reply.—Amersfoort is a city in the province of Utrecht, Netherlands. The sandy soil of its neighborhood is remarkably adapted for the cultivation of that kind of tobacco known in the European trade as "Amersfoort tobacco." The town in King's county, Long Island (now Flatlands), was named, by the first Dutch settlers, "Nieuw Amersfoort," after the town in Holland, and, probably, on account of the similarity of the soil,—for Governor Van Twiller had a tobacco farm in the town, called "Van Twiller's Bouwery." Brooklyn (formerly Breukelen), Flatlands (old New Amersfoort), and New Utrecht, occupy much the same relative geographical position to each other, on the map of Long Island, as Breukelen, Amersfoort and Utrecht, do on the map of the province of Utrecht in the Netherlands.

B. D. A. spells the name, Amesford. The word is often pronounced in Dutch with a silent r, but it is a vulgarism.

See further *Thompson's Long Island*, II., 182, Town of Flatlands.

S. A.

JERSEY CITY, May 18, 1857.

RISHWORTH. — I wish to learn the christian name of the wife of Edward Rishworth, of Wells and Kittery, Me., who was a daughter of Rev. John Wheelwright. X. (2)

GENEALOGY. — *Yates, Glen and Calcraft.* — Tradition heard in the valley of the Tawasentha, says that three veteran English artillerists, named Yates, Glen and Calcraft, who had served in the Continental wars, under the Duke of Marlborough, were honorably discharged from the British service at Fort George, Albany, during the reign of George II. What was their subsequent fate?

H. R. S.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 29.

KENTUCKY. — What is the meaning in English of the aboriginal name, *Kentucky*? J. M. P.

ROCK SPRING, O'Fallon Depot P. O., Illinois, July 1.

DR. SHACKBURG. — Is there any reliable evidence that a Dr. Shackburg was in the British Army, at Albany, about the year 1755? The alleged connection of such a person with the tune of Yankee Doodle, must render any particulars of his life interesting to the readers of the H. M. Perhaps Dr. O'Callaghan will favor you with some information on this point.

G. H. R.

CINCINNATI, O., July.

REPLIES.

DOLLAR MARK (No. 4, p. 122; No. 6, p. 186.) — The dollar mark (\$) appears to have derived its origin from the ancient Romans, through the modern Italians, and specially through those great traders and money dealers of mediæval Europe, the Lombards.

Amongst the ciphers and abbreviations of the Romans, we find (*Ursato de notis Romanorum*, Patav. 1672.) some with horizontal lines, as ₃ , ₄₄₅ (sestertius, sestertium,) and some, though but few, with sloping and not quite upright lines, such as are now used in the dollar mark. Amongst this smaller number, we find the form ₃ (semis, weight or coin,) which is probably the origin of the modern \$.

This last, which is now employed as the dollar mark, came into use in the middle ages to express the current value of the old *Spanish* dollar, which was good for eight reals. . Of this value the dollar mark is not merely an arbitrary token, but a significant representative.

The Spanish dollar, being equivalent to eight reals, used to be called accordingly in French "pièce de huit," in German stück von *achten*, in Italian pezzo d' *otto*, in English a piece of eight. (See Multz's *Curieuses Muntz-lexicon*, Frankfurt,

1740.) This will account for one component part of the dollar mark, namely, the figure of 8. In Spanish, also, the dollar was called *pieza de a ocho*.

But the two sloping lines of the dollar mark (||) have also their explanation. Among the old Spanish dollars those are decidedly best, which bear on their reverse two pillars, or columns, and which therefore have been termed *pillared dollars*. These two pillars, a little sloped by the pen, do duty as the two parallel lines which, combined with the figure of 8, compose the dollar mark.

It has been supposed indeed, that the two lines in question are the double l of the word *castellano*, which sometimes stood in old Spanish for a dollar; or that they are perhaps taken from the word *velon*, which is still used in the phrase "reals vellon." But the explanation first given seems preferable to either of these, which are a little far-fetched, and will not bear examination.

The lines which perform their part in various monetary symbols, for instance the single and sometimes double line in the mark for pounds sterling, £, ₣ , — the single line in lb, which is now a pound weight, but formerly stood for a pound in money, — the line across the double f, which stands in French accounts for francs (₣), — have, all, their explanation. But it would be foreign to our present purpose to enter into this wider field of discussion.

The other part of your Correspondent's question, "When was the dollar mark first used?" is not an easy one to answer. The reply, however, lies within certain limits, to determine which we must go a little way into the history of the Spanish dollar.

"Dollar" is not, after all, a Spanish term. The word is German and Dutch (thaler, daelder, and in old Dutch, daelder.) The Spanish name is *peso*; and it was not till, under Charles V, the Spanish peso, bearing his name as King of Spain, began to be struck in Holland and Germany, that the peso began to be called a dollar (thaler or daelder.) Then, also, the mark \$ appears to have first attached itself, for distinction, to the Spanish peso or thaler. The Spaniards had no need of a mark which merely indicates that their peso was worth eight good reals, for they all knew it. But the old thalers of Holland and Germany, coined long before the times of Charles V, had various values; and therefore it was very natural, when a new Spanish coin appeared in the midst of them and acquired the name of thaler, that the Lombards and others who dealt in money should designate the new variety by a distinguishing mark, which indicated that this was a dollar of eight reals. — The old German mark, employed for the aboriginal German thaler, was *thlr*.

The mark \$, which has been adopted for the dollar of the United States, is also employed, for

a perfectly distinct object, by the Portuguese, who reckon by *reis*. This, however, is a subject for separate consideration.

Permit me only to add, with an apology for having so far trespassed on your valuable space, that a very large number of old dollars, Spanish, Dutch, Austrian and German, may be seen engraved in a small work entitled "Het Thresoor oft Schat," Antwerp, 1580.

De Bosco.

LONDON, Eng., June 17.

WINNEPESAUKEE AND THE INDIAN ADJECTIVE WINNE (No. 5, p. 153; No. 6, p. 186.)—I am not familiar with the dialect used by the Indians who dwelt within the boundaries of New Hampshire; but, having some acquaintance with cognate dialects peculiar to a more southern region, I propose to use them for the purpose of answering the inquiry of D. B. A. G., in the May number, relative to the true meaning of Winnipisogee. My terms I shall draw from the language formerly used by the Nanticokes, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland;—and I shall show how strong was the similarity between the tongues in use here and there, even if I do not satisfy the querist and others.

The first syllable comes from *wingan*,—placid, or beautiful. This word is applied to persons, as well as things, and always implies agreeable qualities, perfection, or beauty. Thus, *Wingina* or *Winganund*, the affable, or the well beloved, was one of the first chiefs known to the early voyagers to Virginia;—the territory over which he ruled was called *Wingandoco*, the land of *Winganund*,—or perhaps, the pleasant land;—*Winganuske*, the most beautiful, or the best beloved,—was the name of the most favored among Powhatan's wives;—*wingalew* was the term applied to fruit, when ripe, and *wingan*, was applied to objects smooth, beautiful or grand.

Neppis, a lake, covers the second and third syllables, and suffices to make out all that is necessary to indicate the lovely body of water, *Winnepis*,—"the placid or beautiful lake."

The terminal, *ogee*, or as Judge Potter writes it, *aukee*, simply indicates locality;—and shews that the name was rather applicable, either to some settlement on the border of the lake, or to the country adjacent to it, than to the lake itself.

This terminal has been written in various forms, according to the accuracy of ear or nationality of the recipient, and the part of the country where it has been heard. In Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, we find *ogh*, *ough*, *ock*, and *oco*; indicating sometimes plurals, and sometimes locality;—and, if I mistake not, these forms, proceeding northward were lost in other terminations, such as *og*, *ogee*, *uc*, or *uck*, *ack*, *acke*, etc., etc., all indicating "land" or "place."

The last two syllables, of the word in question, then, *ogee*, or *auke*, mean simply, land, or place, and the term, as I reconstruct it, becomes, *Winnipes-ogee*;—"the place on the placid or beautiful lake,"—or, "the land of the placid or beautiful lake." This term may have subsequently been used as applying to the lake exclusively.

S. F. S.

BALTIMORE, June 22.

Another Reply.—I cannot at present agree with F. K. in No. 6 of your Magazine, as to the meaning of the Indian word *Winne*. Among the New England Indians, and the Algonquins generally, my impression is, that *Winne* and *Wonne*, invariably mean *beautiful*, *pleasant*, or adjectives of quality nearly akin to those. Thus, *Wonne squam* was applied to that beautiful basin of water at Cape Ann, now known as "Squam,"—*Winnecowauke* was the name of the beautiful pine lands at Hampton, now known as "Winnecowet,"—*Winnescquamsauke* was the name of the beautiful basin of water at Greenland and Exeter, now called "Squamscot" and applied generally to the Falls at Exeter, and *Winnessimet* (I believe) was the name of the river uniting with the Charles at the base of Bunker Hill. Now no one would call the sandy bottomed and clear water at "Squam,"—the fine groves of pines, dark though they be, at Hampton,—the beautiful water of Great Bay, at Greenland,—the sparkling falls at Exeter, or the beautiful river emptying into Boston Harbor—*turbid*. On the contrary, would they not pronounce them *beautiful*. Now I think the Indians so considered them, and called them *beautiful places* or *Winnaukenash*. The beautiful Lake of New Hampshire, surrounded mostly with a rocky or sandy shore, was never *turbid*, always *beautiful*, and hence they called it *Winne*. So of *Winnepeg* and *Winnebago*. The Lake would hardly be called *turbid*; and the Indians answering to the name of *Winnebagoes*, would hardly allow themselves to be called *turbid*, while they claim to be considered and called *beautiful*.

I think the primitive words of *Winnepesaukee*, are: *Winne* (beautiful,) *Nipe* (water,) *Kees* (high,) *Auke* (place); and that the literal meaning of the word is,—The Beautiful Water of The High Place.

P.

HILLSBOROUGH, N. H.

Another Reply.—*Winne* or *wunne* was one of the most expressive words in the language of the Natick Indians, and generally indicated the presence of some desirable attribute in the noun which it described. In Cotton's Vocabulary, *winne* is translated into English by such words as good, kind, courteous, neat, pretty, elegant, pure, pleasant, etc. The following examples from that work

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REPLIES.

DOLLAR MARK (No. 4, p. 122; No. 6, p. 186.) — The dollar mark (\$) appears to have derived its origin from the ancient Romans, through the modern Italians, and specially through those great traders and money dealers of mediæval Europe, the Lombards.

Amongst the ciphers and abbreviations of the Romans, we find (Ursato de notis Romanorum, Patav. 1672.) some with horizontal lines, as ₠ , ₡ (sestertius, sestertium,) and some, though but few, with sloping and not quite upright lines, such as are now used in the dollar mark. Amongst this smaller number, we find the form ₧ (semis, weight or coin,) which is probably the origin of the modern \$.

This last, which is now employed as the dollar mark, came into use in the middle ages to express the current value of the old *Spanish* dollar, which was good for eight reals. Of this value the dollar mark is not merely an arbitrary token, but a significant representative.

The Spanish dollar, being equivalent to eight reals, used to be called accordingly in French "pièce de huit," in German stück von achten, in Italian pezzo d'otto, in English a piece of eight. (See Multz's Curieuses Muntz-lexicon, Frankfurt,

1740.) This will account for one component part of the dollar mark, namely, the figure of 8. In Spanish, also, the dollar was called *pieza de a ocho*.

But the two sloping lines of the dollar mark (||) have also their explanation. Among the old Spanish dollars those are decidedly best, which bear on their reverse two pillars, or columns, and which therefore have been termed *pillared dollars*. These two pillars, a little sloped by the pen, do duty as the two parallel lines which, combined with the figure of 8, compose the dollar mark.

It has been supposed indeed, that the two lines in question are the double l of the word castellano, which sometimes stood in old Spanish for a dollar; or that they are perhaps taken from the word vellon, which is still used in the phrase "reals vellon." But the explanation first given seems preferable to either of these, which are a little far-fetched, and will not bear examination.

The lines which perform their part in various monetary symbols, for instance the single and sometimes double line in the mark for pounds sterling, £, ₧ , — the single line in lb, which is now a pound weight, but formerly stood for a pound in money, — the line across the double f, which stands in French accounts for francs (FF), — have, all, their explanation. But it would be foreign to our present purpose to enter into this wider field of discussion.

The other part of your Correspondent's question, "When was the dollar mark first used," is not an easy one to answer. The reply, however, lies within certain limits, to determine which we must go a little way into the history of the Spanish dollar.

"Dollar" is not, after all, a Spanish term. The word is German and Dutch (thaler, daelder, and in old Dutch, daelder.) The Spanish name is *peso*; and it was not till, under Charles V, the Spanish peso, bearing his name as King of Spain, began to be struck in Holland and Germany, that the peso began to be called a dollar (thaler or daelder.) Then, also, the mark \$ appears to have first attached itself, for distinction, to the Spanish peso or thaler. The Spaniards had no need of a mark which merely indicates that their peso was worth eight good reals, for they all knew it. But the old thalers of Holland and Germany, coined long before the times of Charles V, had various values; and therefore it was very natural, when a new Spanish coin appeared in the midst of them and acquired the name of thaler, that the Lombards and others who dealt in money should designate the new variety by a distinguishing mark, which indicated that this was a dollar of eight reals. — The old German mark, employed for the aboriginal German thaler, was *thlr*.

The mark \$, which has been adopted for the dollar of the United States, is also employed, for

a perfectly distinct object, by the Portuguese, who reckon by *reis*. This, however, is a subject for separate consideration.

Permit me only to add, with an apology for having so far trespassed on your valuable space, that a very large number of old dollars, Spanish, Dutch, Austrian and German, may be seen engraved in a small work entitled "Het Thresoor oft Schat," Antwerp, 1580.

De Bosco.

LONDON, Eng., June 17.

WINNEPESAUKEE AND THE INDIAN ADJECTIVE WINNE (No. 5, p. 153; No. 6, p. 186.) — I am not familiar with the dialect used by the Indians who dwelt within the boundaries of New Hampshire; but, having some acquaintance with cognate dialects peculiar to a more southern region, I propose to use them for the purpose of answering the inquiry of D. B. A. G., in the May number, relative to the true meaning of Winnipisogee. My terms I shall draw from the language formerly used by the Nanticokes, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland; — and I shall show how strong was the similarity between the tongues in use here and there, even if I do not satisfy the querist and others.

The first syllable comes from *wingan*, — placid, or beautiful. This word is applied to persons, as well as things, and always implies agreeable qualities, perfection, or beauty. Thus, *Wingina* or *Winganund*, the affable, or the well beloved, was one of the first chiefs known to the early voyagers to Virginia; — the territory over which he ruled was called *Wingandoco*, the land of *Winganund*, — or perhaps, the pleasant land; — *Winganuske*, the most beautiful, or the best beloved, — was the name of the most favored among Powhatan's wives; — *wingatew* was the term applied to fruit, when ripe, and *wingan*, was applied to objects smooth, beautiful or grand.

Neppis, a lake, covers the second and third syllables, and suffices to make out all that is necessary to indicate the lovely body of water, *Winnepis*, — "the placid or beautiful lake."

The terminal, *ogee*, or as Judge Potter writes it, *aukee*, simply indicates locality; — and shows that the name was rather applicable, either to some settlement on the border of the lake, or to the country adjacent to it, than to the lake itself.

This terminal has been written in various forms, according to the accuracy of ear or nationality of the recipient, and the part of the country where it has been heard. In Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, we find *ogh*, *ough*, *ock*, and *oco*; indicating sometimes plurals, and sometimes locality; — and, if I mistake not, these forms, proceeding northward were lost in other terminations, such as *og*, *ogee*, *uc*, or *uck*, *ack*, *ake*, etc., etc., all indicating "land" or "place."

The last two syllables, of the word in question, then, *ogee*, or *auke*, mean simply, land, or place, and the term, as I reconstruct it, becomes, *Winnepes-ogee*; — "the place on the placid or beautiful lake," — or, "the land of the placid or beautiful lake." This term may have subsequently been used as applying to the lake exclusively.

S. F. S.

BALTIMORE, June 22.

Another Reply. — I cannot at present agree with F. K. in No. 6 of your Magazine, as to the meaning of the Indian word *Winne*. Among the New England Indians, and the Algonquins generally, my impression is, that *Winne* and *Wonne*, invariably mean *beautiful*, *pleasant*, or adjectives of quality nearly akin to those. Thus, *Wonnesquam* was applied to that beautiful basin of water at Cape Ann, now known as "Squam," — *Winnecowanke* was the name of the beautiful pine lands at Hampton, now known as "Winnecowet," — *Winnesquamsauke* was the name of the beautiful basin of water at Greenland and Exeter, now called "Squamscot" and applied generally to the Falls at Exeter, and *Winnesimmet* (I believe) was the name of the river uniting with the Charles at the base of Bunker Hill. Now no one would call the sandy bottomed and clear water at "Squam," — the fine groves of pines, dark though they be, at Hampton, — the beautiful water of Great Bay, at Greenland, — the sparkling falls at Exeter, or the beautiful river emptying into Boston Harbor — *turbid*. On the contrary, would they not pronounce them *beautiful*. Now I think the Indians so considered them, and called them *beautiful places* or *Winnaukenash*. The beautiful Lake of New Hampshire, surrounded mostly with a rocky or sandy shore, was never *turbid*, always *beautiful*, and hence they called it *Winne*. So of *Winnipeg* and *Winnabago*. The Lake would hardly be called *turbid*; and the Indians answering to the name of *Winnabagoes*, would hardly allow themselves to be called *turbid*, while they claim to be considered and called *beautiful*.

I think the primitive words of *Winnepesaukee*, are: *Winne* (beautiful,) *Nipe* (water,) *Kees* (high,) *Auke* (place); and that the literal meaning of the word is, — The Beautiful Water of The High Place.

P.

HILLSBOROUGH, N. H.

Another Reply. — *Winne* or *wunne* was one of the most expressive words in the language of the Natick Indians, and generally indicated the presence of some desirable attribute in the noun which it described. In Cotton's Vocabulary, *winne* is translated into English by such words as good, kind, courteous, neat, pretty, elegant, pure, pleasant, etc. The following examples from that work

He us'd to wear a long blue coat
All button'd down before?"

I have often heard it attributed to a gentleman, now living, who is on the sunny side of 60; and I have also heard several old persons say that they had heard it sung before that gentleman was born.

Though not a great many years the junior of the person to whom the authorship is ascribed, from my earliest recollection, I remember having heard it sung by those who were then probably too old to learn new songs.

W. H. M.

[We have no doubt that Albert G. Greene, of Providence, R. I., — to whom the authorship of Old Grimes is attributed, — is really the author of that song. The writer of the above query and his friends have perhaps confounded some other song with it. If so, it would be interesting to know what that song was. Will some of our correspondents explain the matter?]

REPLIES.

EARLY POETRY ON THE EMIGRATION TO AMERICA, (No. 8, p. 243). — Cartwright, in his play of the "Ordinary," written about 1635, has some curious lines on emigration, of an earlier date than Marvell's *Bermudas*, and of a very different spirit. Cartwright was a devoted royalist, and at his death in 1643, the King himself went into mourning. In the scene referred to, three sharpers are discussing their plans for the future:

Slicer. There is no longer tarrying here: let's swear Fidelity to one another, and So resolve for New England.

Hearsay. 'Tis but getting A little pigeon-hole reformed ruff, —

Slicer. Forcing our beards into th' orthodox bent, —

Shape. Nosing a little treason 'gainst the King, Bark somewhat at the bishops, and we shall Be easily received.

Hearsay. No fitter place. They are good, silly people; souls that will Be cheated without trouble. One eye is Put out with zeal, the other with ignorance, And yet, they think they're eagles.

* * *
Slicer. What language speak they?

Hearsay. English, and now then a root or so Of Hebrew, which we'll learn of some Dutch [skipper That goes along with us this voyage.]

(Act V. Sc. 5.)

VERTAURE.

EARLY EDITIONS OF THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES, (No. 3, p. 88; No. 5, p. 158; [No. 7, p. 219]. — There are copies of the following editions in the library of a gentleman of this city:

1786, Hail & Sellers, Philadelphia, 12°, the *proposed book*; — 1790, Hail & Sellers, Phila., 12°; — 1791, Hail & Sellers, Phila., 12°; — 1793, Hugh Gainé, New York, 8°; — 1795, W. Young and J. Ormrod, Phila., 12°; — 1797, T. Allen, New York, 12°; — 1800, Hall & Sellers, Phila., 12°.

In the Philadelphia Loganian Library, there is a copy of

1793, Hugh Gainé, New York, 12°.

In the Library of Christ, Philadelphia, there are:

1794, Hugh Gainé, New York; — 1795, Hugh Gainé, New York, folio. S. M. G.

PHILADELPHIA.

THE DOLLAR MARK, (No. 4, p. 122; No. 6, p. 186; No. 8, p. 245.) A Spaniard makes the character \$, because the dollar in Spanish is called *peso* and dollars *pesos*. The dollar mark signifies *p.* or *peso*, and *pp.* for *pesos*, or dollars, in the plural. This is the most reasonable solution I have ever heard of the question. B. M.

BALTIMORE, Aug. 21.

MRS. CHARLOTTE LENNOX, (No. 7, p. 215). In the Universal Biographical Dictionary it is stated that "Mrs. L. was a daughter of Col. Ramsay, lieutenant-governor of New York, and was born in 1720." Watkins in his Biog. Dict. says "Mrs. L. was born at New York." — Maunder in the Biographical Treasury that "Mrs. L. was born in 1720. Her father, Col. Ramsay, was lieutenant-governor of New York, by whom she was sent to England, where she married early and was left a widow with one child."

In the Biographical Notes to Madame D'Arblay's Diary, Vol. 1, p. 377, it is said that "Mrs. Charlotte Lennox was a native of New York, of which her father, Col. James Ramsay, was governor." — Madame D'Arblay, Vol. 1, p. 74, remarks, "Dr. Johnson gave us an account of Mrs. Lennox. — Her 'Female Quixote' is very justly admired here, but Mrs. Thrale says, that though her books are generally approved, nobody likes her."

The Gentleman's Magazine for 1804, Part 1, p. 89, contains a long obituary notice of Mrs. Lennox. After enumerating her many works and the time of their publication, &c., it is added: "Her father was a field officer, lieutenant-governor of New York, who sent her over at 15 to a wealthy aunt who desired to have her, but who unfortunately on the arrival of her niece was out of her senses, and never recovered them; immediately after which the father died, and the daughter from that time supported herself by her literary talents, which she always employed usefully. Her latter days have been clouded by penury and sickness."

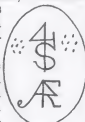
It is further stated that she was assisted by the

were ever used in this country. I have met with two instances. One is impressed on a seal of red wax which is affixed to the original deed from certain Indians granting the land of Marblehead. The signature opposite the seal is Susannah Wenepawweekin.



There are several other Indian signatures to the deed, and to each is appended a seal, bearing some impression, generally a crest of arms.

The other is that with which Russell, of Charlestown, sealed his will in 1674. His son, Daniel Russell, made his will in 1678, and sealed it with the family arms.



These devices appear to have been in general use in England among the merchants, who affixed them to their bales of goods, from about the year 1300 to the beginning of the 17th century, and were occasionally used half a century later. They are often found on the walls of churches, where some liberal merchant in olden time gave money towards their building or restoration.

H. G. S.

Boston.

WINNIPISEOGEE, OR MORE PROPERLY, WINNIPESAUKEE LAKE (No. 5, p. 153).—In your last number a correspondent asks, Who first gave us the translation of this word "*The Smile of the Great Spirit*?" He asks also for the true signification of the original name. In the Algonquin dialect (which was spoken by all the New England tribes) there is no word which could be rendered *smile*. And as in *Winnepesaukee* there is no sound like *Manitou*—the Indian word for the Great Spirit—it will be seen that the person who gave the poetical translation above named, was quite mistaken in his facts.

My own rendering of it is, that *Win* * means turbid or discolored; *neps* is water: thus *Win-neps* is roily or turbid water, such as we often see along the shores of ponds which have a clayey bottom, particularly when they are agitated by the wind or currents. *Auk* means a locality or place; the

* This word is found quite often in our aboriginal names. It is the initial sound in the Indian name (*Winnemmet*) of the newly formed neighboring city of Chelsea. I was for some time much puzzled to find out its meaning, and only obtained it by corresponding with the Rev. Mr. Jones, an Indian missionary in Canada, who was certain of its signification, and gave me, as an example, the lakes *Winnibago* and *Winnipeg*,—the latter of which is very shallow and always turbid, being famous for a luxuriant growth of wild rice, which he said he had spent many a day during his boyhood in gathering into canoes.

final sound like *ee* is often applied to a large of water, and may represent quantity, as Judge Potter, who is good authority, translates, *high*, I will adopt his definition. I would then render *Winnepesaukee* *The High Place of the Water*. I do not think that the name originally referred to the whole lake; but was perhaps applied to some spot upon which the Indians often camped, or to one of the numerous bays where water is quite shoal and not so clear as this beautiful inland sea is usually seen. In the course of time the name came to be applied to the whole lake.

I am pleased to learn that this word is written in accordance with its true pronunciation—*Winnepesaukee*. F. K. Boston, May 21.

ORIGIN OF THE INDIANS (No. 4, p. 122). He who launches on this sea of speculation, sails long before reaching a haven. It is not, however, the commonly received opinion, that they are of Hebrew origin. The best authorities for arriving at such a conclusion are, "Boudino Star in the West," 1816, and Mrs. Simon's "*Tribes of Israel Historically Identified with the Aborigines of the Western Hemisphere*," London, 1836; to which "H. R. S." is referred. An intelligent and highly educated Iroquois informs the writer, that some of the traditions of the Indians state that the "Great Spirit descended from heaven and fashioned man out of the clay of the earth, and breathed into him life. That He created all things good on earth, gave him the bow and arrow, and taught him its use, and the manner of taking game. The Evil Spirit, seeing the happy man would be, if left unmolested, surrounded by all these good things, became envious, and immediately created monsters, venomous reptiles and all kinds of poisonous plants, despoiling the beauties and designs of the Great Spirit's creations, and forever marring the happiness of man. Compare this with the creation and fall of our first parents. Does it not in some degree sustain the affirmative of our argument?

COCKED HAT.

PHILADELPHIA, May 4, 1857.

THE DOLLAR MARK. (No. 4, p. 122).—The probable origin of this mark is the ribbon, or scroll upon the pillars of the Spanish Dollars, although by some thought to be derived from the figure 8, dollars being formerly known as "pieces of eight." The time of its introduction into use is unknown.

W. A. W.

NEWARK, N. J., May.

Another Reply.—The earliest use of the dollar mark that has come to my knowledge, was in 1784, when Jefferson, in the memorial which proposed

June

1857.]

the dollar as the American money-unit, employed the \$ sign. See Jefferson's Works, Vol. I., page 164.

The origin of the mark is very doubtful, and probably never will be known with certainty. Among the origins that have been ascribed to it are the following:—

1. On each side of the royal arms on a Spanish dollar is a column entwined by a scroll which bears a Latin motto. In the sign \$, the upright strokes designate the two columns and the S the entwining scroll, so that the sign is a simple and rational one, borrowed from the very coin itself.

2. The Spanish word for dollars is *pesos*, which in old Spanish accounts was written in full, and placed before the numerals. It was then abbreviated into P. S., and afterwards the small p. was used, the s. being placed on the lower part of the p. Finally, the curved part of the p. was omitted, which gave the sign \$, with but a single long stroke, the second stroke being afterwards added. The sign \$ would thus be equivalent to the word *pesos*.

3. The Spaniards used this mark to signify a coin, which contained eight smaller coins or *real*, equivalent to our "York shillings," and in this form, 12, 8, to express twelve pieces of eight or twelve dollars. And when it was found careless writers and readers often confounded the 8 with the amount intended to be expressed, and read it 128, another stroke was added across it, \$, to show that it was used as a sign and not as a figure, and for the same purpose it was placed before the amount instead of after it.

4. It is a contracted form of H S., the well-known mark of the Roman money-unit, which was prefixed to the numerals representing any sum, just as we use our form of the unit mark. The Roman H S. was their contracted form of *II et semis*, meaning two and a half *nummi*, and equivalent to the word *sestertius*. The *sestertius* was their unit of value, as the dollar is ours.

Whether either of these guesses is correct, and if either, which, are still debatable questions.

P. H. W.

ST. JOHNSBURY, VT., May 11.

Another Reply.—I have seen several explanations of this mark, but remember only these two. The first explanation is that it represents the figure 8, with lines drawn through it to make it a money character, as lines drawn through the letter L, make that a money character for pounds. The dollar being equal to 8 reals, was formerly called a "piece of eight," which accounts for the use of that figure to represent the dollar.

The other explanation is that the two parallel lines represent the letter U, which is combined with an S, these being the initials of United States. But, unfortunately for this latter theory, the

earliest instances that I have found of the character (1796), have but one line through the S; and one line certainly cannot be tortured into a U. If this was the origin, the memory of it was not very long lived.

SEMAJ.

AMERICAN BARONETS. (No. 5, p. 150).—Your correspondent, D. B. A. G. seems in doubt whether the second Sir William Pepperell, Bart., may not have inherited his baronetcy through his mother. I would ask if there is any instance on record of a baronetcy being inherited through a female? I always supposed that this honor was transmitted to male posterity only.

YANKEE.

AMESFORD (No. 5, p. 151).—This name was probably given by the early Dutch settlers, after Amersfoort, on the river Eem, in the province of Utrecht, a town called in ancient records Hemesfurt and Emesfurt, i. e., *Eem's ford*.

B. H. D.

Boston, May 14.

Another Reply.—Flatland was founded in 1636, and called, by its first Dutch settlers, New Amersfoort, after a town of that name in Holland.—*O'Callaghan's New Netherland*, I., 173; *Collections of N. Y. Historical Society*, II., ii., 93.

The name is also written Amersvoort, Amersfort, Amersfoort.—*Collections*, II., ii., 93, 274; II., iii., 143.

NEW YORK, May.

Another Reply.—Amersfoort is a city in the province of Utrecht, Netherlands. The sandy soil of its neighborhood is remarkably adapted for the cultivation of that kind of tobacco known in the European trade as "Amersfoort tobacco." The town in King's county, Long Island (now Flatlands), was named, by the first Dutch settlers, "Nieuw Amersfoort," after the town in Holland, and, probably, on account of the similarity of the soil,—for Governor Van Twiller had a tobacco farm in the town, called "Van Twiller's Bouwery." Brooklyn (formerly Breukelen), Flatlands (old New Amersfoort), and New Utrecht, occupy much the same relative geographical position to each other, on the map of Long Island, as Breukelen, Amersfoort and Utrecht, do on the map of the province of Utrecht in the Netherlands.

B. D. A. spells the name, Amesford. The word is often pronounced in Dutch with a silent r, but it is a vulgarism.

See further *Thompson's Long Island*, II., 182, Town of Flatlands.

S. A.

JERSEY CITY, May 18, 1857.

II. The most *easy ratio* of multiplication and division is that by ten. Every one knows the facility of Decimal Arithmetic. Every one remembers, that, when learning money arithmetic, he used to be puzzled with adding the farthings, taking out the fours and carrying them on; adding the pence, taking out the twelves and carrying them on; adding the shillings, taking out the twenties and carrying them on. But when he came to the pounds, where he had only tens to carry forward, it was easy and free from error. The bulk of mankind are school boys thro' life. These little perplexities are always great to them. And even Mathematical heads feel the relief of an easier substituted for a more difficult process. Foreigners too who trade or travel among us^e will find a great facility in understanding our coins and accounts from this ratio of subdivision. Those who have had occasion to convert the Livres, sols and deniers of the French, the Gilders, stivers, and penings of the Dutch, the Pounds, shillings, pence and farthings of these several states into each other can judge how much they would have been aided had their several subdivisions been in a decimal ratio. Certainly in all cases where we are free to chuse between easy and difficult modes of operation, it is most rational to chuse the easy. The Financier therefore in his report, well proposes that our Coins should be in decimal proportions to one another. If we adopt the Dollar for our Unit, we should strike four coins, one of gold, two of silver, and one of copper, viz.

1. a Golden peice equal in value to 10. Dollars.
2. the Unit, or Dollar itself, of silver.
3. the Tenth of a Dollar, of silver also.
4. the Hundredth of a Dollar, of copper.

Compare the Arithmetical operations on the same sum of money expressed in this form, and expressed in the pound sterling and it's divisions.

Addition.					Subtraction.				
£.	s.	d.	grs. ⁷	Dollars.	£.	s.	d.	grs. ⁷	Dollars.
8	13	11½		38.65	8	13	11½		38.65
4	12	8¾		20.61	4	12	8¾		20.61
£13	6	8¼		59.26	£4	1	2¾		18.04

IV. NOTES ON COINAGE

Multiplication by 8.

£. s. d.qrs.⁷ Dollars.

8 13 11½ = 38.65

20 8

173 309.2 D.

12

2087

4

8350

8

66,800

16,700

1.39(1 8^s

£69 11 8

Division by 8.

£. s. d.qrs.⁷ Dollars.

8 13 11½ = 8)38.65

20 4.83

173

12

2087

4

8)8350 | 1043

35 ¼ | 260¾

30 1½ | 2)1 8

£1)1 8¾⁹

A bare inspection of the above operations will evince the labour which is occasioned by subdividing the Unit into 20ths. 240ths. and 960ths.¹⁰ as the English do, and as we have done; and the ease of subdivisions in a decimal ratio. The same difference arises in making payment. An Englishman to pay £8-13s-11d ¼qrs. must find by calculation what combination of the coins of his country will pay this sum. But an American, having the same sum to pay, thus expressed 38.D.65 will know by inspection only that 3. golden peices, 8 units or Dollars, 6 tenths and 5 coppers pay it precisely.

III. The third condition required is that the Unit, it's multiples, and subdivisions coincide in value with some of the known coins so nearly, that the people may, by a quick reference in the mind, estimate their value. If this be not attended to, they will be very long in adopting the innovation, if ever they adopt it. Let us examine in this point of view each of the 4. coins proposed.

1. The Golden peice will be $\frac{1}{5}$ more than a half Joe, and $\frac{1}{15}$ more than a double guinea. It will be readily estimated then by reference to either of them; but more readily and accurately as equal to 10. dollars.

2. The Unit or Dollar is a known coin, and the most familiar of all to the minds of the people. It is already adopted from South to North; has identified our currency, and therefore happily offers itself as an Unit already introduced. Our public debt, our requisitions, and their apportionments have given it actual and long possession of the place of Unit. The course of our commerce too

II. The most *easy ratio* of multiplication and division is that by ten. Every one knows the facility of Decimal Arithmetic. Every one remembers, that, when learning money arithmetic, he used to be puzzled with adding the farthings, taking out the fours and carrying them on; adding the pence, taking out the twelves and carrying them on; adding the shillings, taking out the twenties and carrying them on. But when he came to the pounds, where he had only tens to carry forward, it was easy and free from error. The bulk of mankind are school boys thro' life. These little perplexities are always great to them. And even Mathematical heads feel the relief of an easier substituted for a more difficult process. Foreigners too who trade or travel among us⁶ will find a great facility in understanding our coins and accounts from this ratio of subdivision. Those who have had occasion to convert the Livres, sols and deniers of the French, the Gilders, stivers, and penings of the Dutch, the Pounds, shillings, pence and farthings of these several states into each other can judge how much they would have been aided had their several subdivisions been in a decimal ratio. Certainly in all cases where we are free to chuse between easy and difficult modes of operation, it is most rational to chuse the easy. The Financier therefore in his report, well proposes that our Coins should be in decimal proportions to one another. If we adopt the Dollar for our Unit, we should strike four coins, one of gold, two of silver, and one of copper, viz.

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30 | 1/12 2) 1 8

8/8 £1) 1 8 3/4⁹

A bare inspection of the above operations will evince the labour which is occasioned by subdividing the Unit into 20ths. 240ths. and 960ths.¹⁰ as the English do, and as we have done; and the ease of subdivisions in a decimal ratio. The same difference arises in making payment. An Englishman to pay £8-13s-11d 1/4 qrs. must find by calculation what combination of the coins of his country will pay this sum. But an American, having the same sum to pay, thus expressed 38.D.65 will know by inspection only that 3. golden peices, 8 units or Dollars, 6 tenths and 5 coppers pay it precisely.

III. The third condition required is that the Unit, it's multiples, and subdivisions coincide in value with some of the known coins so nearly, that the people may, by a quick reference in the mind, estimate their value. If this be not attended to, they will be very long in adopting the innovation, if ever they adopt it. Let us examine in this point of view each of the 4. coins proposed.

1. The Golden peice will be 1/5 more than a half Joe, and 1/5 more than a double guinea. It will be readily estimated then by reference to either of them; but more readily and accurately as equal to 10. dollars.

2. The Unit or Dollar is a known coin, and the most familiar of all to the minds of the people. It is already adopted from South to North; has identified our currency, and therefore happily offers itself as an Unit already introduced. Our public debt, our requisitions, and their apportionments have given it actual and long possession of the place of Unit. The course of our commerce too

OLIVER POLLOCK

The Life and Times of an Unknown Patriot

BY

JAMES ALTON JAMES

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D. APPLETON-CENTURY COMPANY

INCORPORATED

NEW YORK

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LONDON

APPENDIX II

OLIVER POLLOCK AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE \$ MARK

I AM indebted to Professor Florian Cajori, formerly of the University of California, for his studies on the "Evolution of the Dollar Mark."¹ The new evidence here presented, gained from a minute study of the correspondence of Oliver Pollock, serves to confirm the conclusion of Professor Cajori, namely; that "the modern dollar mark is a modification of the Mexican sign p^a for pesos, the chief alteration being the lowering of the letter s upon the letter p." The summary by Professor Cajori of the theories previously advanced relative to the origin of the dollar mark are likewise accepted. Chief among the dozen or more of these hypotheses is the United States origin of the \$. But no evidence has been submitted to show that this symbol originated from the superposition of the S upon the U. For a like reason, the combination of HS or IIS, abbreviations for the Roman *Sestertius*, to produce the \$ cannot be accepted.²

The leading argument of Professor Cajori, that the transition from ps to our dollar mark was made by the English-speaking people who came into contact with the Spaniards, was based on his study of a single communication from Oliver Pollock to George Rogers Clark, August 29, 1778.³

From a study of a large number of documents pertaining to the financial career of Pollock preceding the date, August 29, 1778, the one cited by Professor Cajori, the transition from ps to \$ becomes clear.

In the letters addressed to Pollock by his correspondents in Philadelphia and Richmond, prior to 1775, we find the common forms to be the usual symbols for pounds, shillings and pence.

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One of these early orders reads: "Inclosed you have Invoice and Bill of Loading, [sic] for 10 Baralls of Flouar amounting to £20—9—10." ⁴ This form was also used: "You have herewith Inclosed Invoice & Bill of lading for Sundreys amounting to One Hundred & Twenty four Pounds two Shill. & Sixpence which we desire you may dispose of at whatever Port you meet the best Market & as Soon as an oppty serves we desire you may send us a Remittance in Dollars or Johanna's." ⁵ Early in 1775, we find the abbreviations Dollrs, Dolls. drs, and ds commonly used by Pollock and by his correspondents on the lower Mississippi. "I shou'd be very glad you wou'd let Mr. James Rumsey have on my acc.^t," one of them wrote, "four Hundred dollrs. in negroes and I will pay you next Fall in Cash or Peltries." ⁶ In the statement regarding a land purchase, is found: "This Tract of 1000 Acres Capt Barbut propose to Sell for 1000 Doll^r., ready Money or rather than not dispose of it for 500 Doll^r. Cash, & the remaining 500 Doll^r. in Six Months." ⁷

In the first formal statement of an account rendered on behalf of Pollock, January 9, 1775, is to be seen the use of *ps*, Figure 1 (page 358). ⁸ Thereafter, the symbol *ps* is commonly used in other accounts. It was made by a continuous motion of the pen, as in *p* with the *s* above.

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By April 1, 1778, Pollock had adopted the use of the mark for the dollar which varies only slightly from the one now current. It is of significance to note that this, Figure 3 (page 358), appears in a bill rendered by Pollock for a consignment of merchandise, the value of which amounted to \$1347. These goods were shipped to the Committee of Congress. The members of this committee were Robert Morris, William Smith, and Henry Laurens. If, as Professor Cajori declares, Robert Morris was the first "high official

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In acc^t With Oliver Pollock bro
 1775
 Jan^y. By Cash Recd \$^{ts} 51^{cts}

FIGURE 1

Malone and John Jennings \$^{ts} 145^{cts} 6^{cts}—
 1775
 252^{cts} 5^{cts}—

FIGURE 2

Carried over

1775
 1347^{cts} 7^{cts} 1/2

FIGURE 3

of the United States Government" to use the dollar mark, it seems probable that he was induced to do so because of Pollock's influence.

This discussion has sought to emphasize the view that the \$ mark was derived from the abbreviation *ps* for pesos and that Oliver Pollock in his correspondence and business forms contributed more than any other person of that period towards bringing this symbol into general usage. The dollar was adopted as the money unit by the Continental Congress in 1785. Its weight was modeled after that of the Spanish dollar then in circulation. The report of the Committee of Congress stated: "The most convenient Value of the Money Unit is a question not easily determined considering that most of the citizens of the U. S. are accustomed to count in Pounds, Shillings, and Pence; and that those sums are of different Values in the different States, hence they convey no distinct ideas. The money of the U. S. should be equally fitted to all."¹⁰ On July 6, 1785, Congress took up the report of this Committee and the resolution: "That the money unit of the U. S. of America be one dollar," was passed unanimously.¹¹ The first United States dollars were coined in 1794. The dollar mark, \$, first appeared in printed form in 1797.¹²

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In the Account of Property.

I shall begin with the Lands purchased in the Genesee Country, acknowledging that if I had contented myself with those purchases, and employed my time and attention in disposing of the lands to the best advantage, I have every reason to believe, that at this day I should have been the wealthiest citizen of the United States; that things have gone otherwise I lament, more on account of others, than on my own account, for God has blessed me with a disposition of mind, that enables me to submit with patient resignation to His dispensations, as they regard myself.

In the year 1790, I purchased of Messrs. Gorham & Phelps, a tract of country in the Genesee District, warranted to contain not less than One Million of acres, and sold the whole of that purchase in the year 1791, in England, to handsome profit, but which was reduced by discounts and other circumstances, so as to close with less than I at first expected.

This purchase gave me an insight into the situation and circumstances of the remainder of the lands in that country, the right of pre-emptive purchase from the Indians being in the State of Massachusetts. I took measures, and in the year 1791, bought [a tract*] of the said State, for which I paid at different periods, £100,000, lawful money, equal to £125,000 Pennsylvania currency, with heavy interest, besides other sums paid for various objects connected therewith. In this purchase Mr. Samuel Ogden, who assisted in making it, had an interest of 300,000 acres; his brother-in-law, G. Morris, Esq., who was expected to have assisted in making sales in Europe, had an interest of 250,000 acres; R'd. Soderstrom, 100,000 acres; and Wm. Constable, 50,000 acres. The whole purchase was estimated at Four Millions of acres, and upon actual survey, yielded rather more.

This land was by imaginary meridian lines, divided into five tracts or parcels; of which No. 1 commenced at that point on the Pennsylvania northern boundary line, where Gorham & Phelps' western boundary intersected the same, and from thence running westerly twelve miles, to a point from which the first meridian running into Lake Ontario forms the western

boundary of the said Tract No. 1, Lake Ontario the northern boundary, Gorham & Phelps' west line and the Genesee river the eastern boundary, and the Pennsylvania line the southern boundary. This tract so bounded, was then computed to contain 500,000 acres, but on actual survey, was found to contain much more.

No. 2 commenced at the point on the Pennsylvania line where No. 1 ended, running thence sixteen miles west, and from that point a meridian running into Lake Ontario, formed the western boundary, the Lake Ontario the northern boundary, the west meridian line of No. 1 the eastern boundary, and the Pennsylvania line the southern boundary, estimated to contain 800,000 acres.

No. 3 commenced where No. 2 ended, running sixteen miles west, and then a meridian, &c., as above.

No. 4 commenced where No. 3 ended, running sixteen miles west, then a meridian, &c., as before.

No. 5 commenced where No. 4 ended, and runs west on the Pennsylvania line, to the point on the said line where the east boundary of the land called The Pennsylvania Triangle, strikes the same, and is bounded on the west by the east line of the said triangle, by Lake Erie, and by the land called the New York Reservation, on the east side of Niagara river, on the north by Lake Ontario, on the east by the west line of No. 4, and on the south by the Pennsylvania line.

I have thought this account of those divisions necessary to the true understanding of the sales and grants thereafter to be mentioned, especially of the tract No. 1, to the account of which I now proceed.

In 1791, I borrowed of Colo. W. S. Smith of New York, who was then Agent to Mr. Pulteney and Gov'r. Hornsby, \$100,000, and mortgaged the tract No. 1, to secure the repayment of that sum in Six per cent Stock and interest.

100,000 Acres, part of tract No. 1, was sold and conveyed to Messrs. Watson, Craigie, and Greenleaf, in	1792
86,793 Acres, part of the same tract, was sold to Le Roy and Bayard, January, - - -	1793
33,750 Acres, part of do was sold to Andrew Craigie, in - - - - -	1795
50,000 Acres, part of do was sold to Samuel Ogden in	1796
50,000 Acres, part of do was conveyed to Garret Cottringer, in trust for Captain Charles Williamson, who, as Attorney for Mr. Pulteney, discharged the mortgage on tract No. 1, and accepted this 50,000 Acres a Security for half	

the debt, or \$50,000 remaining due to Mr. Pultenoy, the other half having been paid

100,000 Acres, part of said tract No. 1, was mortgaged to Alexander Hamilton, for the use of John B. Church, to secure the pay of \$81,079 ¹¹/₁₀₀ with interest, which I owed to him. This mortgage is dated, May 31st, 1796

175,000 Acres, part of said tract No. 1, was conveyed to Saml. Sterett, to secure the payment of the Balance which I owed to him, and to Harrison and Sterett, estimated by their accounts at \$400,136 ¹⁰³/₁₀₀ but which upon examination of accounts I have reduced to \$302,919 ³⁶/₁₀₀ which I believe is correct, or nearly so. This conveyance is dated 4th day of May, 1797.

5,120 Acres, part of do being an undivided half of a tract called Mount Morris, given by me to my son Thomas Morris, from motives of Affection and in consideration of services he had rendered, and was then expected to render, and which he hath since faithfully rendered to me in that country; given by letter dated 16th February, 1798, and confirmed by deed dated 27th November, 1798.

5,120 Acres, the other undivided half of Mount Morris conveyed to Thomas Fitzsimmons by deed dated 25th January, 1798, in part of Security of the debt I owe him.

9,600 Acres, Granted to Smith and Jones, Indian Interpreters, upon terms expressed in my contract with them dated 28th April, 1792.

40,000 Acres, mortgaged to the Holland Company to secure the Repayment of \$40,000 they advanced to me, and after them to Messrs. Wilhem and Jan Willink of Amsterdam in Security of a debt due to them This Mortgage is dated December 1796.

110,258 Acres, part of said tract No. 1 conveyed to Thomas Fitzsimmons, Jos. Higbee, and Robert Morris, Junr., in

765,641 trust to secure the payment of sundry debts in that deed enumerated, being debts arising from disinterested Loans of money or names, or attended with circumstances that rendered them of superior claim upon my Justice or Integrity. This Conveyance is dated 14th February 1798, and was drawn and executed when I had not all the Books and papers necessary to enable me to ascertain Balances and

No. 178
Amsterdam

For Value, received I promise to pay on Demand

Twenty Dollars

To Bearer of Exchange at forty Days Sight for four pounds
in Bank or Bills of Exchange at London fifty Quatre-vingt
Ten Shillings Sterling at Amsterdam
Amsterdam on One Hundred Eighty Seven and Nine at
the option of the Holder

Tenno Dollars

THE FINANCIER
AND THE
FINANCES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

BY
WILLIAM GRAHAM SUMNER
PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE IN YALE UNIVERSITY

"It is of the nature of expedients to increase the evils which they
postpone"

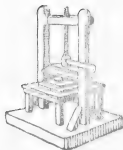
REPORT OF 1785

"Experience has taught me to be cautious, even in doing good"

R. MORRIS

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. II.



BURT FRANKLIN
NEW YORK

and Morris's friends set out in place, where it could be seen. With this he redeemed the notes, and so produced a credit which could be used as a general deposit. Then it was returned to its owners.¹ There is an entry in the accounts, under date of June 30, 1784, of \$225, expenses of the office of John Swanwick, "an appendage of the finance office."² That bureau was therefore in operation in 1783-84.

Morris wrote to Tilghman, April 30, 1784, that he was easy about *all his private and public notes*.³

Still there were notes of Morris's outstanding, when he left the treasury, which carried his personal responsibility; and in his advertisement of October 11, 1784, he pledged himself *personally* to the holders that the notes should be paid at *maturity*.⁴ There seems good reason to believe that these notes, perhaps to an important amount, continued in circulation.

In the following March the money market became very stringent at Philadelphia. Morris wrote to Tilghman at Baltimore, with whom he had business relations, that there were big shipments of money, and that the managers of the Bank of North America seemed inclined to stop discount; also that the attack on the bank had caused it to curtail discounts. In April he wrote that discounts had been stopped at Boston, Philadelphia, and New York.⁵ April 19, he wrote again to the same correspondent that he had a contract with the Farmers-general to provide tobacco. He thinks that raw adventurers have kept up the price of tobacco. He has a scheme to bear exchange, and so to prevent shipments of that commodity by remitters. The Farmers-general will not buy in Europe. He has prepared notes, with which he hopes to pay for tobacco

better than he could do so. The notes are to be payable on demand in remittance of any bills on Europe. The first thing to do is to give full circulation. He will deposit money with Tilghman in order that he may redeem the notes, and will sell bills against gold for the current rates. Tilghman is to indorse the notes in blank, which will make them payable to bearer. The paper is to be manufactured for the purpose. The word "Commerce" is to be water-lined in it.

We therefore find that when he left office, in November, 1784, he had notes outstanding which in some way involved his personal credit, and that in April following he began to issue notes for his tobacco enterprise. It seems impossible to resist the conviction that he passed over from one of these issues to the other without any break; and if that is true, or if he could immediately float notes of his own, it seems that the notes issued by him while in office must some of them have been his personal notes, and not those of the Superintendent of Finance.

In a letter of January 19, 1786, we find the fullest explanation of what these later notes were, for he seems to be reorganizing the system of them. There are two kinds of them, as before, and Tilghman is to have money with which to redeem them, if people want it. He reissued them. The denominations mentioned are \$100, \$40, \$20, \$16, \$15, \$10, and \$8. Morris drew promissory notes in favour of Tilghman, who endorsed them in blank. Notes redeemable in bills were to pass at "not less than five per cent advance." Virginia passed an act to prevent the circulation of private bank notes, and Maryland was considering the same plan. Thereupon, February 4, Morris wrote to his correspondent Tilghman: "I am unwilling to place myself in opposition to the laws of any country; and as I imagine these measures are levelled at me, I will be beforehand

¹ Wain, 274.

² Cf. the story about the Bank of North America, page 34.

³ Ford MSS. ⁴ Dip. Corr. Rev. xii. 502. ⁵ Ford MSS.

Virginia law. I am sure he would be returned to me. At any rate, he would be fully protecting himself. However, he wrote again that, on reflection, he did not see how the law could hinder him from giving his note to any one who would take it, and that he would give some more. Only 9th was written the last letter which was printed in this series. Tilghman was dead, and a new firm was to be formed. Morris's notes are referred to as lost and to be out.¹

In 1796 "bills" or "notes" of Morris were mentioned as selling at a very low rate. Could these have been still some kind of circulating notes?²

The latest mention we have found of the use of Morris's notes as a remittance is from Virginia, April 23, 1787.³

The results of this investigation as to the kind and character of the notes issued bearing Morris's name are extremely unsatisfactory. It seems probable that he issued two kinds of paper. One of them, probably the earlier, which he began to issue in 1781, were certificates of indebtedness for irregular amounts, signed by the Superintendent of Finance, and binding the United States, not himself. The other kind he was probably led to issue later. In the state of public credit, his endorsement would add to the value of a note issued by the United States. The notes, if manufactured for regular and round sums, would have great advantages for purposes of circulation. The same would be true if they were made to fall due at a date. We still find it difficult to understand, however, in what way or to what extent he put his own name and credit into them.

¹ These letters to Tilghman are all in the Ford Collection.

² See pages 229, 252.

³ Va. Papers, iv, 273.

The fact that Morris was a speculator in any of these securities of the government is a proof that he was not a statesman. They could not escape the general knowledge of the people, and it is probable that if some one had pointed to the matter, a specimen might be found.

It seems very clear that Morris was seduced into the trade of notes in 1783 for the purchase of tobacco by the experience which he had had as a public financier. It must have given him a great sense of personal power and prestige to find that Robert Morris was really a greater personage than the Superintendent of Finance, and the suggestion lay near at hand: If he could circulate his personal notes for the purposes of the United States government, why should he not circulate them for the purposes of Robert Morris? If he controlled the commerce in the most important export staple of the United States as Superintendent of Finance, in order to win profits for the United States, why should he not do it likewise to win profits for Robert Morris? If he had demeaned himself as Superintendent of Finance to the vulgar devices of paper-mongering and bill-kiting, why should he not do it for Robert Morris? We have seen ample evidence that he was a sanguine, enterprising, and energetic man. The species of flattery to which he had been subjected for years, when he was told that he was the one man in America who understood the mysteries of finance, was calculated to turn his head. It is sad to believe that the services he rendered his country should have had such a disastrous moral reaction upon himself, but it seems to be forced upon us as the most reasonable explanation of his career.

lex hars

Callahan - NYPL

Jan 21

To amt 5. Cargoes had of me
as sundries in chalks

2188

Jan 21 80 further facts Cupula last time

10 To amt 5. Cargoes had of me

2188

at sundries in chalks

Left with him at our last

settlement 103 1/2 yds of plank

32

6 heading timbers 22

12

2232

Gr

By skin paid for the above

1494

Cargoes at our last settlement

738

738 Chalks reduced to dollars \$ 276.66

Interpretation
comments
in margin
by
Ex-mercator

46

By skin paid for the above

Cargoes at our last settlement

738 chalks reduced to dollars \$ 276.66 (reales)

89 Holes found & filled with O.K. just in store

14 Strand, blank 10 10 - 140

4 blank in duffel 10 - 40

2 large duffels 10 - 20

6 check shirts 2 6 - 36

6 white shirts 2 6 - 36

3 check handkerchiefs 2 8 - 24

5 broad flax 2 5 - 25

12 Knives 2 12 powder 12 - 24

12 horse worth bullets - 12

790 powder 22 Bullets 26 - 48

800 gun flints 10

10 1/2 Spurs 10 powder 10 - 26

10 1/2 flams 3 powder 10 - 19

12 duffel 10. Strand blank 10 20 480

Gr

paid on the London & Spring 10 66

Chalks 414 -

414 Chalks reduced to dollars \$ 155.2

414 chalks reduced to dollars is \$ 155.2 (reales)

OLIVER POLLOCK

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In acco^t. With Oliver Pollock Cr.

'775

Janry. By Cash Recd \$¹ 54.⁰⁰

FIGURE 1

Balance Due John Samings \$¹ 145.⁴—
J^y. 252.⁵—

FIGURE 2

Carried over

\$¹ 134.⁷ 7.¹/₂

FIGURE 3

of the United States Government" to use the dollar mark, it seems probable that he was induced to do so because of Pollock's influence. ✓

This discussion has sought to emphasize the view that the \$ mark was derived from the abbreviation *ps* for pesos and that Oliver Pollock in his correspondence and business forms contributed more than any other person of that period towards bringing this symbol into general usage. The dollar was adopted as the money unit by the Continental Congress in 1785. Its weight was modeled after that of the Spanish dollar then in circulation. The report of the Committee of Congress stated: "The most convenient Value of the Money Unit is a question not easily determined considering that most of the citizens of the U. S. are accustomed to count in Pounds, Shillings, and Pence; and that those sums are of different Values in the different States, hence they convey no distinct ideas. The money of the U. S. should be equally fitted to all."¹⁰ On July 6, 1785, Congress took up the report of this Committee and the resolution: "That the money unit of the U. S. of America be one dollar," was passed unanimously.¹¹ The first United States dollars were coined in 1794. The dollar mark, \$, first appeared in printed form in 1797.¹²

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¹² *Report of the Commissioner of Education*, 1897-98, I, p. 812. The first use by Pollock of the mark \$ where the single stroke is used, I found in the body of a letter from Pollock to George Rogers Clark, dated August 29, 1778 [\$85504]. Dollars and *p* are used interchangeably in this letter.

In the Account of Property.

I shall begin with the Lands purchased in the Genesee Country, acknowledging that if I had contented myself with those purchases, and employed my time and attention in disposing of the lands to the best advantage, I have every reason to believe, that at this day I should have been the wealthiest citizen of the United States; that things have gone otherwise I lament, more on account of others, than on my own account, for God has blessed me with a disposition of mind, that enables me to submit with patient resignation to His dispensations, as they regard myself.

In the year 1790, I purchased of Messrs. Gorham & Phelps, a tract of country in the Genesee District, warranted to contain not less than One Million of acres, and sold the whole of that purchase in the year 1791, in England, to handsome profit, but which was reduced by discounts and other circumstances, so as to close with less than I at first expected.

This purchase gave me an insight into the situation and circumstances of the remainder of the lands in that country, the right of pre-emptive purchase from the Indians being in the State of Massachusetts. I took measures, and in the year 1791, bought [a tract*] of the said State, for which I paid at different periods, £100,000, lawful money, equal to £125,000 Pennsylvania currency, with heavy interest, besides other sums paid for various objects connected therewith. In this purchase Mr. Samuel Ogden, who assisted in making it, had an interest of 300,000 acres; his brother-in-law, G. Morris, Esq., who was expected to have assisted in making sales in Europe, had an interest of 250,000 acres; R'd. Soderstrom, 100,000 acres; and Wm. Constable, 50,000 acres. The whole purchase was estimated at Four Millions of acres, and upon actual survey, yielded rather more.

This land was by imaginary meridian lines, divided into five tracts or parcels; of which No. 1 commenced at that point on the Pennsylvania northern boundary line, where Gorham & Phelps' western boundary intersected the same, and from thence running westerly twelve miles, to a point from which the first meridian running into Lake Ontario forms the western

boundary of the said Tract No. 1, Lake Ontario the northern boundary, Gorham & Phelps' west line and the Genesee river the eastern boundary, and the Pennsylvania line the southern boundary. This tract so bounded, was then computed to contain 500,000 acres, but on actual survey, was found to contain much more.

No. 2 commenced at the point on the Pennsylvania line where No. 1 ended, running thence sixteen miles west, and from that point a meridian running into Lake Ontario, formed the western boundary, the Lake Ontario the northern boundary, the west meridian line of No. 1 the eastern boundary, and the Pennsylvania line the southern boundary, estimated to contain 800,000 acres.

No. 3 commenced where No. 2 ended, running sixteen miles west, and then a meridian, &c., as above.

No. 4 commenced where No. 3 ended, running sixteen miles west, then a meridian, &c., as before.

No. 5 commenced where No. 4 ended, and runs west on the Pennsylvania line, to the point on the said line where the east boundary of the land called The Pennsylvania Triangle, strikes the same, and is bounded on the west by the east line of the said triangle, by Lake Erie, and by the land called the New York Reservation, on the east side of Niagara river, on the north by Lake Ontario, on the east by the west line of No. 4, and on the south by the Pennsylvania line.

I have thought this account of those divisions necessary to the true understanding of the sales and grants thereafter to be mentioned, especially of the tract No. 1, to the account of which I now proceed.

In 1791, I borrowed of Colo. W. S. Smith of New York, who was then Agent to Mr. Pulteney and Gov'r. Hornsby, \$100,000, and mortgaged the tract No. 1, to secure the repayment of that sum in Six per cent Stock and interest.

100,000 Acres, part of tract No. 1, was sold and conveyed to Messrs. Watson, Craigie, and Greenleaf, in 1792

86,793 Acres, part of the same tract, was sold to Le Roy and Bayard, January, - - - 1793

83,750 Acres, part of do was sold to Andrew Craigie, in - - - - - 1795

50,000 Acres, part of do was sold to Samuel Ogden in 1796

50,000 Acres, part of do was conveyed to Garret Cottringer, in trust for Captain Charles Williamson, who, as Attorney for Mr. Pulteney, discharged the mortgage on tract No.

the debt, or \$50,000 remaining due to Mr. Pulteney, the other half having been paid

100,000 Acres, part of said tract No. 1, was mortgaged to Alexander Hamilton, for the use of John B. Church, to secure the pay of \$81,670¹¹/₁₀₀ with interest, which I owed to him. This mortgage is dated,

May 31st, 1796

175,000 Acres, part of said tract No. 1, was conveyed to Saml. Sterett, to secure the payment of the Balance which I owed to him, and to Harrison and Sterett, estimated by their accounts at \$400,136¹⁰/₁₀₀ but which upon examination of accounts I have reduced to \$302,919³/₁₀₀ which I believe is correct, or nearly so. This conveyance is dated 4th day of May, 1797.

5,120 Acres, part of do being an undivided half of a tract called Mount Morris, given by me to my son Thomas Morris, from motives of Affection and in consideration of services he had rendered, and was then expected to render, and which he hath since faithfully rendered to me in that country; given by letter dated 16th February, 1798, and confirmed by deed dated 27th November, 1798.

5,120 Acres, the other undivided half of Mount Morris conveyed to Thomas Fitzsimmons by deed dated 25th January, 1798, in part of Security of the debt I owe him.

9,600 Acres, Granted to Smith and Jones, Indian Interpreters, upon terms expressed in my contract with them dated 28th April, 1792.

40,000 Acres, mortgaged to the Holland Company to secure the Repayment of \$40,000 they advanced to me, and after them to Messrs. Wilhem and Jan Willink of Amsterdam in Security of a debt due to them This Mortgage is dated December 1796.

100,258 Acres, part of said tract No. 1 conveyed to Thomas Fitzsimmons, Jos. Higbee, and Robert Morris, Junr., in

100,641 trust to secure the payment of sundry debts in that deed enumerated, being debts arising from disinterested Loans of money or names, or attended with circumstances that rendered them of superior claim upon my Justice or Integrity. This Conveyance is dated 14th February 1798, and was drawn and executed when I had not all the Books and papers necessary to enable me to ascertain Balances and

NUMISMATIC PLAGIARISM AND COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT IN SCANDINAVIA

Regarding the lawsuit over copyright infringement discussed in last week's issue, longtime E-Sylum contributor Morten Eske Mortensen writes: "You might know, that I am also a numismatic auction catalogue writer. My writings are so popular that other 'writers' really like to copy my works. On September 12, 2006 I sued another auction catalogue 'writer' for plagiarism and copyright infringement (beating the November 7, 2006 Heritage lawsuit by two full calendar months!). This was widely published in Scandinavia in October in two issues of the satirical 'Monthly Commentary for well-informed circles'.

"I have not translated the texts into English language. The Danish word "Afskriver" means "Copyist / transcriber" in a rather non-friendly way. "Stævnet" means "sued". "Ulovligt" means "illegal".

<http://home.worldonline.dk/mem/info/afskriverstaevnet.htm>
<http://home.worldonline.dk/mem/info/afskriveriulovligt.htm>

"What the other writer copied were my painstakingly compiled, researched and authored rarity statements on number of known specimens and provenance histories. For a single coin, researching and writing such a catalogue entry can take around twenty hours of working time to produce [and can end up in just a length of only a few lines].

"You can see an example in this link (click on the picture!):
http://www.emsoy.com/numismatikerenslitteratur/ab_8_sk_1787.htm

"In 2000 I won another lawsuit on copyright against a professional coin dealer and auction house owner:
<http://home.worldonline.dk/mem/info/ophavsret.htm>

"Four editions of the "Monthly Commentary for well-informed circles" have earlier been translated into English language:
<http://home.worldonline.dk/mem/info/auktionshusdoemtforatvildledeUS.htm>
<http://home.worldonline.dk/mem/info/faengselsdomforudnyttelseafkoebervildfarelseUS.htm>
<http://home.worldonline.dk/mem/info/hedesmoentkatalog1964datafra1920US.htm>
<http://home.worldonline.dk/mem/info/unikummetdel17.htm>"

E-Sylum Feb 25, 2007

THE ORIGINS OF THE DOLLAR SIGN

A question from reader Nick Graver prompted me to search for Internet references on the origin of the U.S. dollar sign (\$). I knew Eric Newman had done a nice study on the topic, but didn't have a copy handy. So afterwards I asked Eric about some of the information I found. A couple of the web pages referenced a 1929 book by Florian Cajori called

"A History of Mathematical Notations, Volume II: Notations Mainly in Higher Mathematics." I was curious to learn whether Eric was aware of this work, secretly hoping I'd stumbled upon something of use. But I wasn't surprised to learn that Eric had already covered that ground.

He writes: "Cajori was a mathematical genius and without studying what he wrote I would not have been able to write my origin of the dollar sign article. What I found was new material he did not know about. I also had to clarify or correct things other people had claimed, because everyone seemed to want to be the so-called inventor of the dollar sign. Thus I had to write a lengthy article. I had to study the Portuguese language as well, as their \$ had entirely different meanings. I have never heard anything new on the subject since I wrote my piece. Perhaps you or your readers have."

Eric's paper, "The Dollar \$ign: Its Written and Printed Origins" was published in the proceedings of the 1993 American Numismatic Society Coinage of the America's Conference, "America's Silver Dollars".

The article's abstract is as follows: "British traders and merchants moving into West Florida and Louisiana after the change of ownership in 1764 are shown to have converted the Spanish symbol (pS) for the coined peso into a convenient ligature form beginning about 1768, thus creating the \$ sign. The first conventional \$ sign in type is traced to 1799 rather than to a 1797 symbol of different makeup. The early uses of the \$ sign are illustrated and explained."

Some Internet references on the Origin of the Dollar sign:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dollar_sign

<http://www.ex.ac.uk/~RDavies/arian/dollar.html> (Scroll down)

<http://www.pballew.net/dollar.html>

<http://www.alt-usage-english.org/excerpts/fxorigin.html>

E-Sylum 2/25/07

UPDATE ON NEWMAN'S ALBANY CHURCH PENNY RESEARCH

On a related topic Eric Newman writes: "The E-Sylum has become more exciting as time goes by. You have become an information clearing house. You were nice enough to put my original inquiry about the use of "D" on some of the Albany Church Pennies and my question as to whether the capital form of "d" for penny was used in printing type anywhere prior to 1800. No comment has as yet come so far as I know.

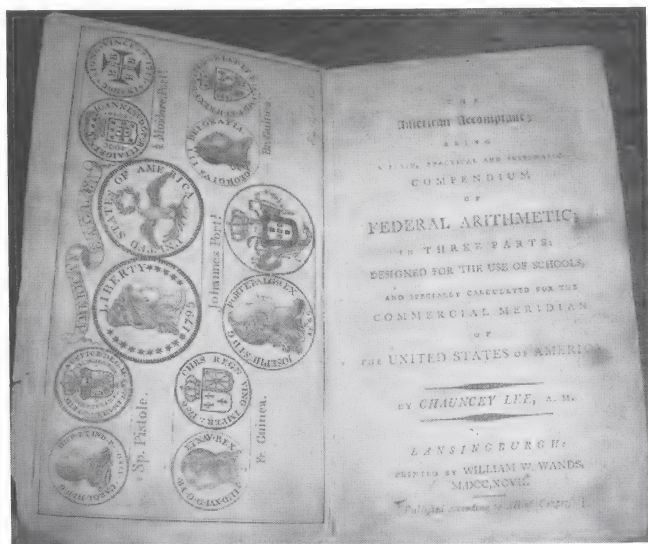
"I have done and continue to do research on the entire subject. However, you added material about a recent sale of the coin and then a reproduction die turned up on eBay. You included an article from the Albany paper as to the price the item brought. This article mentioned the older references which you included. The result is that I asked the Presbyterian Church history archives in St. Louis something about Communion tokens. The new pastor of the present Albany Presbyterian Church independently added his opinion. Now I have asked the Philadelphia Presbyterian Archives for

Friday, March 02, 2007 America Online: EricNumis

THE AMERICAN ACCOMPTANT: 1797 BOOK USING DOLLAR SIGN

E-Sylum reader Adrián González forwarded a link to an interesting item for sale on eBay.

Perusing old books at eBay I found the following old book. I know it isn't a numismatic book but it contains a 1795 eagle gold coin including other British coins.



As described in the seller's listing (IN ALL CAPITAL LETTERS!!!!), the book is:

THE AMERICAN ACCOMPTANT BEING A PLAIN PRACTICAL AND SYSTEMATIC
COMPENDIUM OF FEDERAL ARITHMETIC IN THREE PARTS DESIGNED FOR THE
USE OF SCHOOLS AND SPECIALLY CALCULATED FOR THE COMMERCIAL
MERIDIAN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY CHAUNCEY LEE
LANSINGBURGH PRINTED BY WILLIAM W WANDS MDCCXCVII (1797)

Other descriptions include:

HERE IS A VERY RARE BOOK - IT IS THE FIRST TIME EVER THAT THE UNITED STATES DOLLAR SIGN \$\$\$ WAS EVER USED IN PRINT

FANTASTIC ENGRAVING FRONTISPIECE WITH THE 1795 LIBERTY DOLLAR AMONG OTHER COINS OF THE TIME SIGNED OWNERSHIP TO ISAAC SPAULDING HIS BOOK BOUGHT IN NORFOLK FEBRUARY 15TH 1800

The contemporary illustrations of circulating coins are important clues for numismatic researchers, but what most caught my eye was the claim that the book contains the first printed representation of the U.S. dollar sign (\$). Is that true? The seller didn't list his source for the claim, but knowing that our friend Eric Newman researched the topic, I reached for a copy of his paper, which was published in the proceedings of the 1993 Coinage of the Americas conference at the American Numismatic Society in New York.

Newman does cite and illustrate the 1797 Lee book. Newman writes:

Lee's symbol for the dollar was called to the attention of the numismatic public in *The Numismatist* for September 1899 and was generally accepted as the first printed use of the conventional dollar sign until 1925 when Professor Florian Cajori challenged it.

An examination of Lee's , particularly his dollar symbol, shows that they were original with him and that he was not familiar with the existing conventional \$ sign.,

Granted he was the first to develop a symbol for the dollar in type form rather than spelling out "dollar" or employing an abbreviation, but it appears to be an isolated concept, unrelated to the prior handwritten \$ sign.

Sorry, eBay seller - your description isn't accurate. Still, it's a neat item worth of inclusion in a numismatic library. Readers, check out Newman's monograph. It's meticulously researched and very well written, illustrated and annotated.

Joel Orosz adds:

I was fortunate several years ago to pick up a pristine copy of Chauncey Lee's "American Accomptant", which I have enjoyed very much. It looks like this one is a pretty nice copy as well. Definitely worth having in a bibliophile's library!

To view the complete eBay fixed-price listing, see: [1797 AMERICAN ACCOMPTANT
FEDERAL MATH 1ST USE OF \\$ SIGN \(cgi.ebay.com/1797-AMERICAN-ACCOMPTANT-
FEDERAL-MATH-1ST-USE-SIGN-/290575151885?pt=Antiquarian_Collectible
&hash=item43a7a0f30d\)](http://cgi.ebay.com/1797-AMERICAN-ACCOMPTANT-FEDERAL-MATH-1ST-USE-OF-$-SIGN-/290575151885?pt=Antiquarian_Collectible&hash=item43a7a0f30d)

THE BOOK BAZARRE

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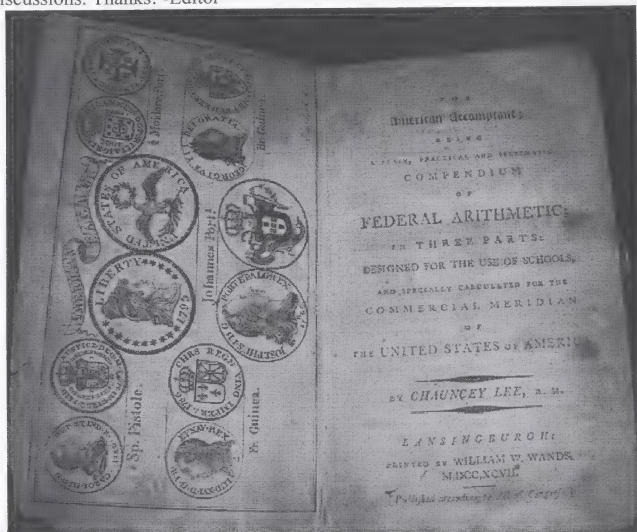
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Esylum
July 24, 2011

MORE ON THE AMERICAN ACCOMPTANT AND THE FIRST PRINTED DOLLAR SIGN

David F. Fanning and Eric P. Newman have been discussing Chauncey Lee's *The American Accomptant*, which was mentioned in the June 26 issue. David submitted the following write-up of their discussions. Thanks! -Editor



I noted with interest the commentary on Chauncey Lee's 1797 "*The American Accomptant*" and the claim that it includes the first printed dollar sign.

I should point out that the book is important for another reason: it includes, as a frontispiece, an engraving depicting a 1795 U.S. eagle, which Eric P. Newman has called "the earliest known illustration of a United States coin." Also included on the engraving are the Spanish pistole, French "guinea," British guinea, and Portuguese Johannes and half moidore. This illustration alone makes the book of considerable importance.

Returning to the question of whether it includes the first printed dollar sign, I have some thoughts on the matter. Lee's volume has been generally accepted for some time as including the first appearance in print of the dollar sign (\$), though not without some dissent. The claim is accepted by bibliographers Charles Evans and Wright Howes, for instance. It is not accepted by Mr. Newman, who discusses the issue at length in his 1993 COAC presentation (published 1995), pages 24-25.

Mr. Newman argues that: 1) Lee's symbol seems to have had no relation to the handwritten symbol then in use; 2) that his dollar symbol was original with him and "that he was not familiar with the existing conventional \$ sign"; 3) that as his dime symbol more closely resembled the existing handwritten dollar sign, his printed dollar sign could not have been a modification of the handwritten version; and 4) that it therefore "seems proper to exclude" the claim that the printed dollar sign first appears in Lee's work.

It is my opinion that the dollar sign, which appears on page 56 of Lee's work for the first time and then throughout the volume, is in fact a typographical approximation of the handwritten dollar sign used by some during the period. It resembles the handwritten symbol of the day, but also differs from it. Much as a typographical ampersand is much more stylized than most of our handwritten ampersands, this initial attempt at a dollar sign in type is less a strict representation of the handwritten sign than an attempt to establish a similar sign for more formal treatment in type. It much too closely resembles the handwritten dollar sign of the day to have been created ex nihilo, and the idea that Lee was unfamiliar with the handwritten symbol seems implausible. The resemblance between Lee's dollar and dimes symbols seems to me to be more a failure in his proposed system (which did not catch on) than evidence that he was unfamiliar with a monetary symbol which had been used for some time over a considerable geographical area.

I discussed the matter with Mr. Newman, whose opinion, as I mentioned above, differs. "In view of your suggestion that I comment on the Lee publication I am glad to have the opportunity to do so," writes Mr. Newman. "I certainly agree that the book has the first printed image of a United States of America coin (this includes the FUGIO copper coinage prior to the establishment of the US Mint). I also agree that it has the first printed symbol of a United States of America coin (none existed on the Continental Currency Dollar size coin nor on prior American paper money). Those facts alone make the book very important."

Newman continues, "Where we have a possible difference of opinion, I and perhaps others think that Lee's symbol has no relationship to or development from any of the then existent written forms of the dollar \$ sign. Lee's thinking and book includes the preparation of a set of symbols for the dollar and each of its major fractional divisions. Each of the signals for each denomination is different but is composed of the same design elements. In other words he was not primarily creating a symbol for the dollar but for a set of distinguishing symbols for the dollar and each of its major fractional parts. He did not mention or indicate in any way that he was influenced by any prior written symbol of the dollar. He created something entirely new for the public. His symbols were almost impossible to be written by penmanship and only possible for specially prepared type for use in printing. To have a dollar symbol which in my opinion does not resemble the then written dollar sign and to have different symbols for each major fractional part of a dollar with no relationship to the then written dollar sign or any part of a dollar does not seem reasonable to me. He developed an independent arrangement of symbols based upon the existing monetary system."

"After the publication of Lee's book in 1797 there was never a use or suggested use by anyone of the printed denominational symbols developed by Lee. In fact, I know of no mention of Lee's system during the 18th or early 19th century. The accepted and presently printed Dollar \$ sign in

type was cast in Philadelphia in 1799 and used in print that year in the anonymous pamphlet 'Facts Respecting the Bank of North America.'"

[Fanning again] I believe this is a matter of interpretation more than anything else, and a matter on which reasonable people can disagree. I feel that Lee's dollar sign resembles the handwritten dollar signs of the period enough to infer that his typographical symbol was an attempt to mimic the handwritten symbol while providing for a symbol complex enough to be integrated into a symbolic system capable of including all of the denominations. I also find it difficult to accept that the author of an early American accounting manual would have been ignorant of a symbol in use among merchants, etc., throughout a geographic span of the country.

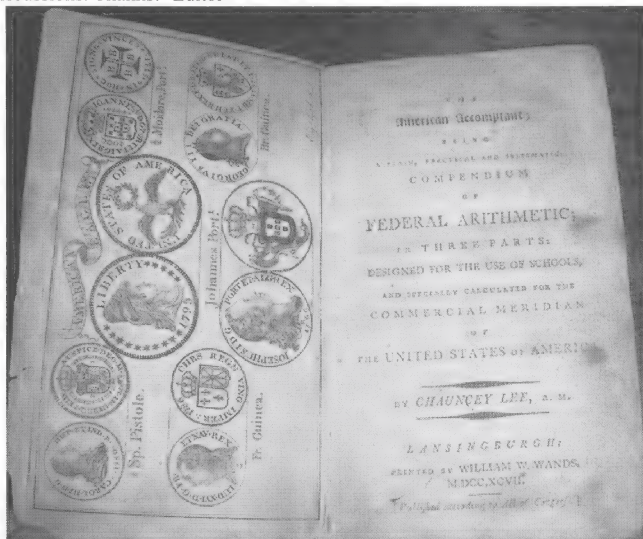
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To read the earlier E-Sylum article, see: [THE AMERICAN ACCOMPTANT: 1797 BOOK USING DOLLAR SIGN](http://coinbooks.org/esylum_v14n26a18.html) (coinbooks.org/esylum_v14n26a18.html)

25/1/14
July 18 2007

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dalous falsification in the fineness of silver monies coined in our Peruvian mints."

In addition to coins imported from Spain and Spanish America, other foreign specie appeared in the American colonies. The great mixture of foreign gold and silver coins which circulated was complicated by normal abrasion, weight and fineness changes, lack of adherence to the legal standards, counterfeiting, shaving, sweating, filing, clipping, and changes in minting techniques. As the condition of the circulating coinage was in continuous flux, many colonists found it expedient to possess coin scales as standard equipment. From time to time, exchange tables were published indicating coin values in monies of account, and usually the weights of the various denominations in troy ounces, pennyweights and grains.

The British requirement for a special license for the export of foreign bullion or coins from England aggravated the unfavorable trade balance which the colonies had with the mother country. Generally trade between the colonies and England was transacted by bills of exchange. Inflation of the money of account and the shortage of coinage caused depreciation in the purchasing power of the money of account as related to the principal coin circulating in America, the Spanish piece of eight. In order to remedy this situation, the colonies independently sought to prevent what coins they had from flowing out of their respective areas by increasing the local money of account valuation of circulating specie. The sterling rate for the Spanish silver dollar was four shillings, sixpence. England attempted to counter the effects of the higher American ratings by putting limits on colonial money of account used to purchase silver coin.

The foreign specie rated by the individual colonies was gladly received by all creditors on that basis. Values of circulating coins were not uniform between colonies and at times each colony had its own rules and regulations. Court judgments were in local colonial pounds, shillings and pence.

Stubborn English monetary policy, in relation to her dominions, was not confined exclusively to the North American colonies. Queen Anne's proclamation of June 18, 1704 was applicable to all British territory in the New World, effective January 1, 1705 and was as follows:

We having had under our consideration the different rates at which the same species of foreign coins, do pass in our several colonies and plantations in America, and the inconveniencies thereof, by the indirect practice of drawing the money _____ from one plantation to another, to the great prejudice of the trade of our subjects; And being sensible that the same cannot be otherwise remedied, than by reducing of all foreign coins to the same current rate, within all our dominions in America; . . .

The proclamation provided that the Spanish dollar should not pass in

any colony for more than six colonial shillings. This was the Massachusetts rating of 1697. Other current foreign silver coins were to be rated proportionately, on the basis of silver content. Only silver coins were included, and the omission of silver bullion and gold left a major loophole for avoiding its effect.

The reaction in America of the proclamation was one of dissatisfaction. Some copies of the document were in private hands before its publication in New York which customarily offered opposition to English monetary policy. Actual publication in New York City was on February 5, 1705, and for about five days all trade ceased, no market was operating, and goods could not be purchased for ready money. Provisions of the proclamation were reconfirmed by Parliament in 1707; however, little attention was paid to the designated maximum values in America, and the ratings became known as Proclamation Money.

Trading patterns between the North American colonies and the West Indies were altered without violating the new limitations set by the Crown. The West Indies adopted a virtual gold standard by the strategy of rating Spanish gold coins by weight, not as multiples of the Spanish dollar, a method which could be used to depreciate values and stay within the law. North American colonies reciprocated and rated silver by the ounce. This procedure caused gold to flow to the islands, and at the same time, silver flowed to the mainland, with the net result that the colonial money of account value of Spanish dollars tended to continue a fluctuating differential over sterling value.

On March 3, 1708, Queen Anne repealed a New York enactment, indicative of colonial thinking at the time. The document read:

AN ACT for regulating and preventing the Corruption of the Currant Coyn. For Preventing of the Corruption of the Coyn Usually Currant within this Colony. Be it Enacted by the Governor Council and Assembly and by the Authority of the same That from and after the Publication of this Act none of the Severall Coyns herein after mentioned shall be paid Received or taken but at the Rates and Value herein Limited and Exprest and no otherwise That is to say All Spanish half Ryals fair unclipt and no manner of way defac'd at four pence half penny each All Spanish Ryalls fair unclipt and in no manner of way defac'd at nine pence. All Spanish Double Ryalls not Clipt nor in any manner of way Defac'd at Eighteen pence. All other Spanish money of the Coyns of Mexico Seevil and Pillar pieces whatsoever at Eight Shillings the Ounce Troy. All pieces of Eight and half pieces of the Coyn of Peru at Six Shillings Eight pence the Ounce Troy. Lyon Dollars that are good and in no manner Defac'd at five Shillings and Six pence each and half Dollars such as before mentioned at Two Shillings and Nine pence each. And that from

hence forth no person or persons in this Colony shall be bound or Compell'd to Receive in payment any of the Species of money before mentioned at any higher or greater price or Rate than is before Sett forth any Usage or abuse to the Contrary hereof notwithstanding.

The Lion dollar under the name of "dog dollar" had been given the same rating about fifteen years previously. This coin was the leeuwen-daalder, minted in the Netherlands as a trade coin for circulation in the Levant. On September 24, 1709, New York prohibited exportation "by



Potosí, 8 Reales 1637; Bogotá, 2 Escudos 1650

Land or by Water, any Spanish Coin, Cevill, Pillar, Mexico or Peru, Lyon Dollars, half Dollars or any other Foreign Coin, Gold, Silver or Bullion whatsoever, under Penalty of forfeiting Double the Value of all Such" gold, silver, or bullion.

The Spanish unit known as the real ("royal") was the basic denomination for silver coinage. It was practical for most coinage of the Spanish American mints to be in units of eight reals or pieces of eight. The piece of eight reals became known as the Spanish dollar, adopting the English name for the European thaler.

The colonies imported a considerable amount of a very crude type of specie coinage minted by the Spanish authorities and known as "cob"

money. This name was derived from *cabo de barra* meaning "end of a bar," and the money was also called *macuquina* or *macaca*. Natives in colonial Peru dubbed the cobs "*m'quina de papalote y cruz*," literally "windmill and cross money," referring to the devices depicted on the pieces. In minting cobs, planchets were lopped from sections of round or oblong bars of correct fineness and hammer-struck with coarse dies, the use of punches sometimes being in evidence. Planchets exceeding the weight standard were clipped at the mint, a procedure resulting in highly irregular edges. A great many cobs were of insufficient diameter to receive the entire die, dates showing in part or not at all or being indecipherable. A large variety of shapes exist, such as relatively circular, polygonal, almost square, somewhat saucer-like and thick in the middle with thin edges. Early in the eighteenth century, mintings became generally thicker and smaller with almost flat obverses, reverses showing surface cuts and



Mexico, 8 Reales 1743

hammer markings after the original impression. Nevertheless, some cobs are perfectly circular like normal coins. Despite all the irregularities, cobs, both in silver and gold, were usually of lawful weight and fineness, or almost so within a few grains, a highly important quality for commercial purposes.

Crude specie coinage of Spanish America was gradually replaced by the introduction of coins struck on the screw press. An overlap occurred causing simultaneous minting of the new type coinage with a protective edge rolled on and the irregular cob type, due to an initial shortage in the various mints of trained workers and equipment to produce the improved coinage output. The milled peso duro of eight reales, known as *dos mundos* or *columnaria*, authorized in June 1728, first minted in Mexico in 1732, was called the Spanish milled dollar by the American colonists. It and its fractions became the most important coins to circulate in colonial America.

Studies on Money in Early America

ERIC P. NEWMAN
Editor

RICHARD G. DOTY
Associate Editor

The American Numismatic Society
New York 1976

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AS A WAR OF FINANCE

The War for Independence was as much a struggle for economic freedom as it was for political liberty. *The Papers of Robert Morris* depicts the last years of the American Revolution as a "War of Finance," in which the inability or unwillingness of either side to mobilize its resources could spell defeat. They disclose how Robert Morris put his most effective weapon—his own reputation and personal credit—at the service of his country by cosigning for the United States government when the nation's credit was nonexistent. They reveal how Morris administered the Treasury with keen appreciation of the marketplace and the managerial skills and instincts of a shrewd entrepreneur, ever striving to ensure through incentives the reciprocity of public and private interests. They portray a vigorous and resourceful businessman who, as Superintendent of Finance of the Confederation Congress, led the nation's struggle for financial survival.



Courtesy of Independence National Historical Park

Robert Morris was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the United States Constitution—one of only two Founding Fathers who signed all three fundamental testaments—but he is today least known of the great national leaders of the Revolutionary era.

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The Morris

ON THE NATIONAL DEBT:

"If effectual Measures are not taken . . . to make permanent Provision for the public Debts, of every Kind, Congress will be pleased to appoint some other Man to be their Superintendent of Finances I should be unworthy of the Confidence reposed in me by my fellow Citizens, If I did not explicitly declare that I will never be the Minister of Injustice." To the President of Congress, January 24, 1783

ON HIS NOTES:

"You may very truly tell your Antagonists that from one End of this Continent to the other I can obtain Whatever is wanted for the public Service, by a Scrip of the Pen." To Gouverneur Morris, April 3, 1782, on his notes.

ON BANKING:

"The use, then, of a bank is . . . to give a new spring to commerce, in the moment, when, by the removal of all restrictions, the citizens of America shall enjoy and possess that freedom for which they contend." To The Public, May 29, 1781, commenting on his plan for the Bank of North America, the first commercial bank in the United States

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Robert Morris

ON HIS COINS:

"I sent for Mr. Dudley who delivered me a Piece of Silver Coin being the first that has been struck as an American Coin." Office of Finance Diary, April 2, 1783

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Nova Constellatio Pattern Coin: The Mark, a 1000-unit alloyed silver piece. Courtesy of John J. Ford

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BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

"It is said that the east bank of the Mississippi boasted the finest houses in the state, and that the traveler was never out of sight of a fine house, from the time he left New Orleans until he reached Baton Rouge... One may well believe it, for even today [1929] there are 25 to 30 magnificent houses remaining there, and within my recollection a score have burned or have caved into the river."

—Lyle Saxon • Old Louisiana

THE SIEGES OF BATON ROUGE

The early story of Louisiana is a tale of exchange of authority. A Spanish explorer first reached the Mississippi and a French explorer came down the river from Canada and claimed a territory. The French settled it, in the same way that they made settlements and posts from the islands off Canada to the semi-tropical Gulf Coast.

When England defeated the French in the Seven Years' War, the French were compelled to cede Canada to the English. But the Bourbon king of France transferred Louisiana to the Bourbon king of Spain. At that point, except for the Isle d'Orleans, with the city of New Orleans, Louisiana was on the west bank of the river, and the British received from the French the east bank.

It was not a happy day for the Louisiana French when they were told that their king had transferred the province to Spain. The French Creoles literally rejected the first Spanish governor, and it was only the heavy hand of the second, Don

Alexander O'Reilly, which established the strength of Spanish rule in Louisiana.

The British were the latecomers to the river. They built fortifications at Natchez and at Baton Rouge in their new territory. They established a fort at Manchac, 115 miles above New Orleans, with the idea of cutting off New Orleans from the growing trade of the valley there: furs, lead, salted buffalo meat and tongues, and agricultural products that were beginning to come down river.

A WOULD-BE NEW ORLEANS

The idea: river trade would find the market that New Orleans had been at Manchac, and the British would ship through a dredged bayou from the Amite River to Lake Maurepas, through Pass Manchac to Lake Pontchartrain, and through Lake Borgne to the Gulf. It was a navigable route.

Manchac, which is a Choctaw word for "rear entrance," no longer exists as it did. Soldiers under Andrew Jackson filled in Bayou Manchac at

the time of the Battle of New Orleans so that the invading British might not use it to flank the city by coming through the lake and out the bayou above the city. However, at the time the English were expanding in the Mississippi valley, it was a strong weapon against Spain.

The Battle of Saratoga in New York, fought in 1777, was a turning point of the American Revolution. It was a major defeat for the British. Certainly the victory strengthened the hand of American commissioners in Europe, and it was not long before treaties of alliance were signed with France. That year, 1777, was also the year Bernardo de Galvez became Acting Governor of Louisiana. And partly because of the English threat to Spanish holdings, Galvez became a tacit ally of the revolutionary Americans.

In 1779, the assistance became more than covert. France and England were at war as soon as France recognized the American colonies as independent. In June, although making no formal alliance with the Americans, Spain declared war on England.

AN AMBITIOUS PLAN

Galvez heard about the war before the English (who were in their forts at Manchac, Baton Rouge and Natchez, on the Mississippi) did. He decided simply that he would take all of West Florida (that section of land along the Gulf stretching from the Chattahoochie and Appalachian Rivers which were the border of Spanish Florida to the Mississippi) away from the English before they had a chance to be ready for war.

Galvez left New Orleans for Manchac in September 1779. He had nearly as motley an army as Jackson did when he fought the British at New Orleans 36 years later, in another war. Galvez had 170 Spanish veterans, 330 recruits from the Canary Islands, 20 musketeers, 60 militiamen, and 80 free Negroes. He had 115 miles to go to Manchac, no appreciable baggage, and no engineers.

Beside him at the head of this force heading into 115 miles of bad road and forest rode the Irish-American Oliver Pollock, a merchant who had befriended Don Alexander O'Reilly, the second

Spanish governor, and who was spending his fortune to aid the American colonies. With Galvez's approval, Pollock had been shipping supplies bought in New Orleans up the Mississippi and Ohio and overland from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia.

In the course of the march up the German Coast (the section of the east bank above New Orleans) the volunteers who joined Galvez included 600 farmers and trappers from the German Coast, the Attakapas country of the Acadians (not yet Cajuns), and Point Coupée. Galvez also added 160 friendly Indians. But he lost a third of his army to sickness and straggling by the time he reached Manchac.

The fort at Manchac he found held by a skeleton force, the main strength having been sent to Baton Rouge when the British heard the Spanish force was approaching. Manchac was captured with the loss of one man of the garrison and no Spanish casualties.

At Baton Rouge, the Pointe Coupee volunteers, led by Carlos de Grand-Pre, took positions between Baton Rouge and Natchez

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to stop communication between the British at Baton Rouge and the fort up river.

Baton Rouge was a different story than Manchac. The fort had a surrounding 18 foot wide, nine-foot ditch, thick earthen walls, and a force of 100 regulars and 100 militiamen. It also had 13 pieces of heavy artillery.

Galvez put his Negro and Indian soldiers in the forest and had them fire at the fort through the night to create a diversion while his artillery was set up behind a garden wall, well secured before the English were even aware. The artillery battle began at dawn and by mid-afternoon the fort was in ruins.

THE END OF BRITISH RULE...

Galvez demanded that the English surrender Fort Panmure at Natchez as well as the fort at Baton Rouge. His prisoners included Lt. Col. Alexander Dickson, commander of all British settlements on the river. The British surrendered.

Galvez then took an expedition along the Gulf coast to capture Mobile and Pensacola. British

planters in the Natchez area recaptured the fort there, hoping for aid from Pensacola. But Pensacola had fallen to Galvez, and no help came. The planters fled. Some were captured by the Americans. After considerable hardship, some found their way to Savannah, which was still in British hands.

Although Galvez and the other Spanish administrators were generous to the British in their defeat, it was the end of the British on the Mississippi and in the Floridas, an end that had been almost inevitable after the capture of Baton Rouge. Galvez went on to greater glory and authority in the service of the stiffest of all monarchies.

...AND THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF SPANISH AMERICA

It is left to the hindsight of the historian to see the irony of arch-royalist Spaniards making common causes with Americans fighting for their independence, helping to create the new nation that would finally be the end of Spanish America.

With the new century, Louisiana was returned to France. Napoleon

then sold it to the new United States, and the last Spanish hold on the east bank of the Mississippi was the territory called West Florida, claimed by both Spain and the United States. Ironically, that came to an end in Baton Rouge just 31 years after Galvez's earlier defeat of the British there.

An army of 75 men made up of residents of the disputed territory—many of them Americans, many from Feliciana Parish up the river—came down to the Spanish fort at Baton Rouge. Lacking artillery, they had to be crafty. Thus, the men managed to sneak inside the Spanish garrison undetected by entering with the cows when they were taken in for their morning milking.

They were successful in capturing the garrison, and so the flag of Spain was lowered. This was replaced by the one-star flag of the Republic of West Florida, stitched for the expedition by Melissa Johnson, the wife of a West Florida officer.

The United States then moved to support its claim, and the republic came to an end, amicably, after 74 days, with annexation by the United States. A number of men from that small army, the Feliciana Dragoons, later fought under Jackson at New Orleans, defeating the British attempt to return to the Mississippi Valley.

The disputed area has remained American since, although there are those who say that the Feliciana parishes have never really gotten over having once been part of their own independent republic.



DISEMBARKATION

Please attend our Disembarcation Talk for information that will make your departure go smoothly. The date, time and place will be published in the *Steamboatin'* Events inserts inside the *Steamboatin'* Times prior to day of disembarcation.

Smokers

Please don't smoke in the Dining Room, Theatre, Grand Saloon, Library or posted "No Smoking" areas. Cigarette smoking is only permitted on the starboard side of designated lounge areas. Pipe or cigar smoking is not permitted indoors in public areas. Outdoors, please use ashtrays to extinguish smoking material instead of throwing it overboard. It sometimes blows back on the deck below! Thank you for your cooperation.

LOUISIANA'S CAPITAL CITY

One of the farthest inland deep-water ports in the world, Baton Rouge is the state capital. It's also the seat of Louisiana State University, with distinguished university press and a 78,000-seat stadium. The university is a direct lineal descendant of the institution of which William Tecumseh Sherman was once president.

Just upriver is an 11-mile square Exxon refinery, the first major refinery built in the region. Not far away is Magnolia Mound, a working plantation. Nottoway Plantation, the largest plantation home in the South, is close by as well, just across the river in White Castle. It has an opening—door, window, or otherwise—for each day of the year, and its front parlor has drapes which, some say, inspired those famous Tara drapes in David O. Selznick's film of *Gone With The Wind*.

HUEY LONG'S MONUMENT

Marble in the lobby of the "new state house" shows bullet pockmarks from the day in 1935 when former Governor Huey P. Long was assassinated and his

alleged assassin gunned down by Long's bodyguards. Long is buried in the garden of the new capital building, which was built at his command.

The old state capital still stands on a bluff above the river, a sterling example of 19th century Gothic architecture. It was partly burned by Union troops, and Mark Twain commented that this type of architecture deserved to have the job finished with dynamite. Today it is renovated, its stained-glass skylight filling the atrium with soft patterns of colored light. A multi-media presentation on the history of Louisiana is shown in the former House Chamber, and there's a museum on the first floor which includes material on Long's assassination.

The tall buildings of a modern city mark Baton Rouge, but there are also reminders of the South that was, a blending that is common throughout the South and is well-demonstrated by Baton Rouge.

WHAT TO SEE IN BATON ROUGE

Your steamboat docks at a landing which some wags have affectionately nicknamed "The Paperclip." You'll see why when you look at it the right way.

Downriver you'll notice the navy destroyer *USS Kidd*, named for Rear Admiral Isaac Campbell Kidd, who was killed aboard his flagship, the *USS Arizona*, during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. You can visit this meticulously restored naval vessel: it's just a short walk away along the levee.

Also within walking distance is the newly restored Old State Capital building. There's an admission fee to tour the museum and see the multi-media presentation, and you can admire the Gothic architecture, gleaming woodwork, and spectacular stained glass skylight from the lobby.

Bus tours will take you on optional excursions to nearby plantation country, and the popular Cajun Heritage Tour is one of Steamboaters' all time favorites. See the Shore Tour manager for details.

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DISCOVERING THE MISSISSIPPI

Native Americans were the first people to use the Mississippi. The Sauk and Kickapoo Indians called it Meche-Sepe. The Menomonee called it Mecha-Sepua. The Chippewa called it Meze-Zebe, and the Ottawa called it Missis-Sepi. In all these slight variations, mecha, meche, meze, and mississ mean the same thing: large or big. Sapa, sepua, sepe, zebe, and sepi all mean: river. So the correct translation of any of these words is "large river."

Columbus may have been the first white man to view the Mississippi River, but this is conjecture. An "Admiral's Map" in the Royal Library at Madrid, said to have been engraved in 1507, shows the mouth of the river, then called "The River of Palms."

In 1541, historians are certain, Hernando DeSoto did view the Mississippi at a point near or just below Memphis. DeSoto died in April of 1542, but his followers continued the explorations. The historian of the expedition, Garcilaso De La Vega, described the Mississippi as in a flood of great severity and of prolonged duration. He went on to say that it began about the tenth of March in 1543 and reached its peak about forty days later. The flooded areas were described as extending for twenty leagues on each side of the river.

One hundred and thirty years later, Joliet and Marquette explored the river, reaching as far north as a point near Arkansas City, Arkansas. Soon after, LaSalle descended the greater portion of its length to its mouth. He then claimed all of the Mississippi, its tributaries, and land drained by all, for France. In 1699, d'Iberville entered the mouth of the river, and at a point near Old River, received a letter from an Indian Chief previously left there by LaSalle.

Within a few years, French traders had settled along the Mississippi River and had penetrated the territory of the Natchez Indians. In 1705, the first cargo was floated down the river from the Indian country around the Wabash, now the States of Indiana and Ohio. This was a load of 15,000 bear and deer hides brought downstream and out through Bayou Manchac. From there they followed the Amite River to Lake Maurepas. Once through that lake they crossed Lake Pontchartrain to Biloxi, with the final destination being France.

Fort Rosalie, the first permanent white settlement on the Mississippi River—now called Natchez—was built by the French in 1716. Bienville founded New Orleans in 1718, and four years later this city was made the capital of the region known as Louisiana. The rapid growth of New Orleans, in its early days and even now, was due principally to its position near the mouth of the river. Navigation grew and developed with the settlement of the lower Mississippi valley.

The canoes of the Indians soon proved inadequate for the needs of the settlers. The flatboats and rafts that succeeded them were one-way craft only. Loaded at an upstream point, they were floated downriver and their cargoes were unloaded. Then they were dismantled and sold for lumber. Built for the one trip only, they were cheap and often poorly made, but carried large quantities of merchandise at a time when transportation was vital to the growing valley.

The keelboat was the first queen of river trade. A two-way traveler, it was long and narrow with graceful lines, built to survive many trips. A keelboat could carry as much as 80 tons of freight. Floated downriver, it was cordelled upriver. This called for a crew of tough and hardy men. The cordelling process involved a crew of men walking along the river, pulling the boat with lines. Another method of cordelling was to tie a line to a tree. Then a crew on board the craft would pull on the line, hauling the boat upriver. Despite great difficulties from treacherous river currents, snags, shifting sandbars, hostile Indians and river pirates, river navigation grew quickly.

The invention of the steamboat in early nineteenth century bought about a revolution in river commerce. The first steamboat to travel the Mississippi was the *New Orleans*, built in Pittsburgh in 1811 by Robert Fulton and Robert Livingston for a cost of approximately \$40,000. She was a side-wheeler about 148 feet long and 32 feet wide. The golden era of the paddlewheeler soon got under way. Where in 1814 only 21 steamboats arrived in New Orleans, in 1819 there were 191; and in 1833, more than 1,200 steamboat cargoes were unloaded.